

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

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WINTER BIRDS OF THE DENVER AREA *

PART 1

Donald M. Thatcher

We often suppose winter months to be a time of scarcity of birds and other wildlife. But, to those who know the birds and how to find them, winter is fully as interesting as any other time of year.

When summer birds have raised their families and ceased singing, some of them have changed to somber winter plumage and many have departed southward, their places filled by others come south to us from more northern regions. Generally speaking, with the small birds, the insect-eating summer birds are replaced in winter by more northern fruit or seed-eaters. The strictly insectivorous species, as the nighthawks, swifts, swallows, flycatchers, warblers, vireos, and some that are mainly insect-eaters, including tanagers, orioles, and certain finches, must pass the winter where they can obtain sufficient insect food for survival. Their winter replacements are largely insectivorous while in their northern summer homes, but these need only a plentiful supply of seeds and small fruits to carry them through the cold months. On the other hand, the water birds - ducks, geese, herons, gulls, cormorants, and others - and the shorebirds, the majority of which are hardy enough to breed in or near the arctic regions, move southward largely because they require open, unfrozen water for feeding or resting, or both.

Another group of birds, the so-called "birds of prey" - hawks and owls - migrate more or less irregularly, in response to heavy snows or to cyclic shortages of the small rodents forming the bulk of their diet. In this region, several of the mountain species merely make a short vertical migration to lower slopes or into the plains, instead of taking a long trip southward.

Although in this region winter birdlife is somewhat less abundant than that of other seasons, the winter months, with predominantly moderate, pleasant weather, are in several respects the best time for studying birds. Finding and observing birds is facilitated by the absence of foliage on aspens, cottonwoods, and other deciduous trees and shrubs. There are no troublesome insects, and few plants such as poison ivy and nettles which add to the discomfort of the summer heat. Many birds seem to be less wary in winter than at other seasons and can be observed more closely. Winter is a good time for the beginning birder to start, when there are fewer kinds to confuse him than at other seasons. And, to the experienced birder, winter is the most likely time for "surprises" - unexpected birds or unusual numbers. Just as ducks and other water birds are seldom found away from water, each species of land bird has its preferred habitat. Certain species prefer the open, short-grass prairie; others favor cattail swamps, brushy ravines, wooded stream bottoms, coniferous forests, scrub oak, rock cliffs, or alpine tundra. Some limit their surroundings almost entirely to stands of one kind of tree or other plant.

Many readers are doubtless familiar with the five ecological life zones of the biologist included within Colorado. These are well explained from the botanist's viewpoint in the book "Meet the Natives" by M. Walter Pesman and from that of the ornithologist in "The Birds of Denver and Mountain Parks", by R. J. Niedrach and R. B. Rockwell. The life zones as listed in these two works in different terms are: Upper Sonoran (Niedrach and Rockwell) or Plains (Pesman), Transition or Foothills,

* See note on page 18.

Canadian or Montane, Hudsonian or Subalpine, and Arctic-alpine or Alpine. Just as the botanist recognizes these zones by their chief plant components, the zoologist might, if he desired, ignore the trees and other plants and identify any zone by its bird or other animal life, allowing, in the case of most birds, for seasonal movements. Denver, at the edge of the Upper Sonoran zone, with the four life zones of the mountains close at hand, is unusually well situated for variety of wildlife habitats. Dry prairie, farm land, lakes, river bottom and rock cliffs are readily available to the nature student. Only a few miles to the west and south are scrub oak, ponderosa pine, and Douglasfir of the Transition zone; lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce and aspen of the Canadian zone; slower growing spruce, alpine fir and limber and bristlecone pines of the Hudsonian zone and, above timberline, the tundra of the Arctic-alpine zone. In two or three hours one can cover habitats equivalent to those he would encounter on a trip to the Arctic Circle, with similar climates and the same or closely related plants and animals.

Of the more than four hundred species of wild birds recorded in Colorado (some perhaps only once or twice), approximately 350 are known in the area lying within thirty or forty miles of Denver. Of these, 265 are more or less regular in their occurrence during some part of the year, many as permanent or seasonal residents and others only as transients in migration. Regular winter bird species number about 90, of which 65 are present throughout the year and the others are more northern breeding species. Four or five additional are frequent, but irregular, winter visitors, rare or entirely absent during some winters and common or abundant in others.

At Christmas time each year ornithologists, both amateur and professional throughout the country, conduct a one-day Christmas Count, an activity originated in 1900 and now co-ordinated and published by the National Audubon Society as a substitute for the then popular (and since outlawed) useless and wasteful Christmas shoot. Members of the Colorado Bird Club have participated for several years, covering plains, stream bottoms, and foothills within a circle fifteen miles in diameter, immediately southwest of Denver. The last five counts included 80 to 86 species each, for a five-year total of 114 species. A similar count by some of the same observers in the mountains in the vicinity of Idaho Springs and Georgetown has found 25 to 34 species each year, in five years totaling 44, three of which species did not occur in the lower areas near Denver. Although several of these 117 species are late fall migrants still headed southward, occasional individuals of all sometimes remain through the winter.

The following are discussions by general bird groups, based partly on similarity of habitats or of habits and partly on taxonomic or other relationships, first of the winter birds of the plains, followed by those of the foothills and the higher mountains. Most species frequenting more than one life zone are considered with the zone in which they are most likely to be observed in winter. By far the greatest variety of winter birds in the Denver vicinity occurs in the several plains habitats, for all open water and the best supplies of weed seeds, waste grain, wild fruits, and small animal prey are to be found there.

Waterfowl are among the most conspicuous and readily observed of winter birds as considerable numbers of more than a dozen species usually spend the entire winter on almost any sizeable lake, pond, or stream that offers some open water. Most numerous and best known is the green-headed Mallard, which occupies most of the lakes of city parks and the reservoirs about Denver, and which feeds at night in the fields. The smaller Shoveler, although its regular winter range is south of here, winters in considerable numbers in the shallow park lakes, particularly Berkeley and Rocky Mountain, where large, close groups revolve as they feed on tiny organisms in the water. Other surface feeding ducks are frequent winter residents in small numbers: Pintail, American Widgeon (Baldpate), Gadwall, the little Green-winged Teal, and an occasional one or two of the beautiful Wood Duck. Of the diving ducks, the Common Goldeneye, black and white with a large white spot before the eye, is most common, with its brown-headed mate, in small numbers on many lakes and the larger streams. A few other diving ducks, principally Redhead, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup and Bufflehead

usually winter this far north. The Common Merganser is fairly numerous where small fish are plentiful, being more useful than not in reducing undesirable non-game fish. The Red-breasted Merganser and handsome Hooded Merganser are occasional winter residents. In one or two places where it is well protected, the Canada Goose is locally common. Sometimes one or two of the smaller White-fronted and Snow Geese or the Whistling Swan may winter with the Canadas.

Of other classes of water birds, an infrequent one or two of Great Blue Heron, Pied-billed Grebe, or Coot may winter on or about sufficient open water with cattails for protection. Only two shorebirds winter in this area - both fairly commonly: the noisy Killdeer, which feeds along streams and lake shores and often in plowed fields, and the inconspicuous Common Snipe (formerly Wilson's Snipe or Jacksnipe), frequently flushed from the grassy shores of streams and sloughs or prairie marshes. One "seagull" is a fairly common winter resident, the Ring-billed Gull, identified by its greenish feet and black ring about the bill; occasionally, the larger Herring Gull, with pinkish feet, and rarely one or two other large gulls occur.

On a winter drive in the plains about Denver, one might find several species of hawks, but these valuable birds, because of the unjustified persecution to which they are subjected and in spite of laws to protect them, are much less numerous than formerly. The large, heavy-bodied hawks perched in cottonwoods along streams or soaring in circles overhead are extremely useful consumers of rats, mice, ground squirrels, and other rodents; they are usually either the dark, black and white Rough-legged Hawk from the arctic, the year long resident Red-tailed Hawk or the less common reddish Ferruginous Hawk. The fairly numerous Marsh Hawk, slender, long-winged, brown or light gray with a white rump, flies low over prairies, pastures, and meadows in search of meadow mice. Two large, pointed-winged falcons, the bluish Peregrine Falcon and the lighter, gray-brown Prairie Falcon are much less frequent; they occur usually about water or cliffs. A smaller falcon, the Pigeon Hawk (so named because of its resemblance in flight to a pigeon) or Merlin, a frequent winter visitor and the brightly-colored misnamed Sparrow Hawk, smallest of our hawks, a common permanent resident whose diet is mostly mice and large insects, often perch on poles, wires, or fence posts along the roadside. Two other hawks, the little Sharp-shinned and the larger Cooper's, both dark gray above and reddish below with long tails and short rounded wings, frequent wooded places, and sometimes city parks and residential areas; these prey more on birds than do other hawks, but are believed by ecologists to be extremely useful in helping to maintain the balance of nature and the vigor of their prey species. The large Goshawk, similar but pale gray beneath, sometimes invades the plains in winter, but is more numerous in the mountains. Along the edge of the foothills, both the Golden Eagle and sometimes the Bald Eagle are frequent - the latter especially near water.

Several owls are more common in this area than is generally supposed because of their nocturnal habits, but, like the hawks, they are unjustly persecuted and greatly reduced in numbers. Largest and commonest of these is the Great Horned Owl, frequent in the cottonwoods along streams, sometimes nesting there in late winter, and often seen in the city parks. Other winter owls, all very useful rodent eradicators, are the Long-eared Owl of brushy ravines and wooded places, sometimes occurring in small flocks; the more northern Short-eared Owl, preferring cattail marshes; and the little gray Screech Owl of woods and suburbs. Occasionally, the little Saw-Whet Owl and the even smaller, robin-sized Pygmy Owl, both mountain birds, occur in dense growth near the edge of the plains, the former active at night and the latter mostly by day.

Two species of wildfowl occur on the plains near Denver with sufficient brush or weed cover along roadsides, fences, and streams. The well known introduced Ring-necked Pheasant is fairly common about irrigated land. Coveys of eastern quail, the Bobwhite, which was probably introduced locally, are frequent near the South Platte River northeast of Denver and a few occur near the city. During some winters, scattered individuals or small flocks of the Mourning Dove, abundant and well known in the warmer months, remain in this area, mostly about irrigated land with plenty of weed seed or waste grain.

There are several permanent resident woodpeckers in Denver and the surrounding country. Most common is the noisy, friendly Red-shafted Flicker, a large, brown woodpecker with salmon-red wing and tail-linings and conspicuous, white lower back; it survives the winter very well, largely on ants obtained from lawns and on small fruit such as that of the Virginia Creeper. The two black and white woodpeckers, the robin-sized Hairy and the similar, smaller Downy are frequent wherever there are trees harboring boring insects; these two and, when other food is difficult to obtain, the Flicker are fond of suet. A few of the oddly colored Lewis' Woodpecker, greenish-black with red face and pinkish underparts, resembling in flight small crows, winter in the cottonwoods in the suburbs; this species is decreasing in the Denver area, probably largely because its nesting cavities have been usurped by the recently arrived Starling. Rarely a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker winters with us, and will visit feeders for suet.

Two small birds always associated with water are interesting winter birds on the plains about Denver. The gray-blue and white Belted Kingfisher, usually singly, frequents river, creeks, and lakes in and about the city, feeding on small fish obtained by hovering and diving. The Dipper - a strictly western oddity of the bird world - small, slate-gray, with short tail usually held upright and a peculiar bobbing or dipping habit, subsists on insects and other small, aquatic animals on the rocks and in the water of streams; it follows the freezing mountain stream that is its summer home down to the plains and sometimes occurs even in the heart of Denver, on Cherry Creek.

The crow-jay family is represented about Denver by several more or less permanent residents. Most noticed and abundant is the long-tailed, black and white Black-billed Magpie, in winter flocks sometimes in hundreds, about wooded creek bottoms and some of the city parks. The Common Crow also occurs in flocks, usually near the foothills, where it feeds in last year's grain fields. Accompanying the crows are often a few of the much larger Common Raven, recognizable by wedge-shaped tail, sailing or soaring flight, and harsher call. The crested, eastern Blue Jay, medium blue above with white underparts, is an uncommon resident of wooded creek bottoms. A few pairs of its cousin, the well-named Scrub Jay (formerly California or Woodhouse's Jay), also blue but without a crest, occur in the drier scrub oak to the south of Denver or, less frequently, in brushy gullies nearer the city.

Several small species whose food is mostly insect eggs and dormant insects gleaned from the bark and twigs of trees form an interesting group of winter birds. These are extremely sociable and usually travel in mixed flocks of several species. Perhaps best known about Denver is the friendly Black-capped Chickadee, with black cap and bib, a yearlong resident of deciduous woods and city parks. The Mountain Chickadee of the western mountains, similar, but with his black cap broken by a white line over the eye, is numerous during some winters on the plains and in the city; it is usually partial to spruce or pine and is often even more friendly than the Black-cap. Two up-side-down Nuthatches, the White-breasted and the smaller Red-breasted, readily identified by the black line through the eye of the latter, come down to the plains in winter, but mostly remain in the coniferous forest of the mountains. Chickadees and nuthatches are fond of suet and sunflower seed on your feeding shelves. A tiny, long-tailed, gray-brown bird with a stubby bill, the Common Bushtit, prefers shrubbery and juniper trees; although it is generally a rare winter visitor about Denver, an unusual invasion of several small flocks spent the winter of 1956-57 in the city parks and the lower foothills. A slender, bark-colored, brown bird with stiff tail and long curved bill, climbing like a woodpecker, is the Brown Creeper, another mountain bird which winters commonly on the plains and often in the city. The two kinglets, tiny and greenish, complete this group: the Golden-crowned, with black, white, and orange or yellow striped head, and the Ruby-crowned, with white eye ring and seldom-seen bright red crown patch; the former is the commoner in winter, few of the Ruby-crowned remaining so far north. A few individuals of several wrens winter where they can find sufficient quantities of insects and similar food. Commonest is the Canyon Wren, reddish brown, with white throat, which runs over rock

cliffs like a mouse and is more often heard than seen; its beautiful song is often the highlight of a winter trip for birds. A few can usually be found about the cliffs at Red Rocks Park and in the steeper of the foothill canyons. The grayish Rock Wren is more migratory, but an occasional one winters here in loose rock slides or about cliffs. Nearly every sizable cattail marsh has its wintering Long-billed Marsh Wren, readily identified by habitat and white-streaked back, but seldom seen, as it keeps well hidden. A search of densely brush-covered ravines will sometimes produce a Winter Wren, tiniest of the wrens, with stubby, upright tail and the habit of hiding almost under one's feet. The House Wren, common foothill summer resident and the larger, southern Carolina Wren, have been known to winter here successfully. The Brown Thrasher and the light-gray Mockingbird, larger relatives of the wrens, occasionally winter in sheltered places on the plains, subsisting on insects and small fruits.

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WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

December 1, 1957 - The past month recorded some quite cold temperatures as well as some quite warm ones. The coldest recorded was 8 degrees the 22nd and the warmest 64 degrees the 25th. There were various light snows, the most $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches the 17th and 18th with another $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches a day or so later. The moisture content was about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and that covers the month as far as rainfall is concerned. November can also be remembered for light or very light winds with only 2 or 3 strong ones, and they lasted but briefly. In contrast, years ago strong gusty winds would blow for a week at a time. The weather did not seem to affect bird life here much, though it did bring in more than the usual species of ducks. Tree Sparrows are fairly common. Horned Larks are about in larger than usual numbers and pretty well distributed, as there are ample weed seeds just about everywhere.

The following notes bring the data up-to-date:

Mallard - continue to be seen in flocks of various sizes
Gadwall - first 1 11/4
American Widgeon - first 5 11/4
Green-winged Teal - remained to 11/12. The above ducks are from a hunter's game bag.
Red-tailed Hawk - 3 11/7 continue
Rough-legged Hawk - present
Sparrow Hawk - all seen are in small numbers, 2-4 in a 20 mile trip
Ring-necked Pheasant - 1 11/12, 15 miles southeast; are rare here
Great Horned Owl - quite common
Red-shafted Flicker - around in small numbers
Horned Lark - common just about everywhere; One found dead that has quite deep yellow about head and throat, which corresponds to the one called Northern in the old books.
Blue Jay - prevalent in Fort Morgan
Black-capped Chickadee - 1 11/9; frequent in Fort Morgan
Mountain Bluebird - first 3 9/28; 25-30 10/6; continued in small numbers to last 1 11/28, a late date. Were not at all common.
Northern Shrike - about in small numbers
Starling - rare right here but common farther south
House Sparrow - absent or here only briefly
Meadowlark - remains common
Redwinged Blackbird - 1 11/6 first of fall; 1 11/24; 30-40 11/30; plentiful farther south
Brewer's Blackbird - last 2 11/10
Finches - several flocks of finches have been seen, but none identified with certainty. They were probably House Finches, as they appeared larger than Redpolls.
Pine Siskin - first 3 11/11 once only

American Goldfinch - few to 11/10, none since
Slate-colored Junco - 1 11/8
Oregon Junco - Shufeldt - continued in very small numbers to 11/10
Pink-sided - remains in small numbers
Montana - here in small numbers
Tree Sparrow - continues to be fairly common
Lapland Longspurs - common all fall, but are few in numbers now

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ORGANIZATION OF COLORADO BIRD CLUB, 1957-1958

President: Donald Thatcher	Directors:
Vice president: John Flavin	1956-1958: James Humphrey,
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Program: John Flavin	State Checklist: Donald Thatcher

The Colorado Bird Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, except June, July and August, at 8 P. M., in the Bird Room at the Denver Museum of Natural History. Field trips are scheduled for all months of the year. All interested persons are welcome to attend meetings and trips.

"Colorado Bird Notes", the Club's bulletin, is issued monthly (except in summer) nine times each year, during the week before the monthly meeting. Articles, news and reports of bird observations are desired and should be sent by the tenth of the month to Donald Thatcher, 2916 Perry St., Denver 12, Colo. (GL5-7479)

Dues are payable at the beginning of the Club year (September) and may be sent to the treasurer, Mrs. Jean White, 1580 S. Quiet Court, Denver 23, Colo.

- (1) Regular members: \$2.00 per year (first member in family)
 - (2) Additional regular members from one family receiving only one copy of each issue of "Colorado Bird Notes": \$0.50
 - (3) Subscribing members (out-of-town members who are generally unable to attend meetings or trips): \$1.00
 - (4) Junior members, under 18 years of age: \$0.50
- All except (2) receive "Colorado Bird Notes"

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NOTE:-- The article, "Winter Birds of the Denver Area", on pages 13 to 17, was written for publication in two parts in the current issues of the "Green Thumb", monthly publication of the Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association. The second part will appear in the next "Colorado Bird Notes".

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Howard Rollin has sent his much appreciated annual gift to the club, a lovely water color of a pair of Bobolinks. Thanks so much!

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Storrie, Miss Robina - 443 S. Corona St. (9)PE3-0809
Sullivan, Mrs. Berene - P. O. Box 292, Rte. 2, Boulder (S)
Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph E. - 2393 S. Winona Ct. (19)WE4-8137
Thatcher, Mr. & Mrs. Donald M. - 2916 Perry St. (12).GL5-7479
Thomas, Mr. Blaine - 1243 Tennyson St. (4) (Jr)KE4-8782
Thielon, Mrs. Merle - 803 Vivian St., Longmont (S)
Thorne, Mr. Oakleigh, II - 1701 Hillside Rd., Boulder
Thurlow, Mrs. M. M. - 1403 N. Weber St., Colorado Springs (S)
Turnquist, Mrs. Donald - 5785 W. 60th Ave., ArvadaHA4-4825
Tyler, Mrs. Harry L. - 1600 Toller St. (15).BE3-2033
Voris, Mrs. C. D. - 1085 Olive St. (20)EA2-7256

Wangnild, Miss Lillian - 1062 S. Elizabeth St. (9)SH4-1622
Weberbaur, Mrs. Jean - 423 E. Kiowa St., Colorado Springs (S)
Webster, Miss Lois - 50 S. Ivy St. (22)FR7-7462
Wheeler, Miss Ruth - 3340 W. 37th Ave. (11).GL5-3924
White, Mr. & Mrs. Parnell - 1580 S. Quieto Ct. (23)WE6-0606
Wilson, Miss Maudie - 3995 S. Pennsylvania, Englewood
Winterbourne, Mr. & Mrs. George E. - 5010 Stuart St. (12)
Winters, Miss Eileen - 1536 Emerson St., Apt. 6 (18).TA5-3707
Wlassak, Mr. Otto - 1682 Madison St. (6)
Woodman, Mrs. L. J. - 3985 S. Pennsylvania, EnglewoodSUL-8097
Woodward, Mrs. Ruth - 1045 W. Midway Blvd., Broomfield Heights . Broomfield -540

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AN URGENT APPEAL FOR INFORMATION ON THE WADING BIRDS

The latest (December 1957) issue of "Audubon Field Notes" contains a $2\frac{1}{2}$ page article under the above title, by Robert P. Allen, describing the critical situation of the herons, egrets and ibises and requesting information of breeding places of these birds throughout the country. These birds made a remarkable recovery from, for some of them, near-extinction, after protection was given them in the early part of this century. Real estate development, drainage of marshes for mosquito control and farming, insecticide spraying, drought, fire, lumbering, and food shortage, however, have reduced them seriously in the last few years especially in Florida. The population of one species, the White Ibis, is now estimated to be only two percent of that of 25 years ago. The article concludes: "We need the co-operation of everyone who can help by sending us information on this subject. List all species of herons, egrets and ibises that occur in your region. List nesting colonies separately. Give as accurate an estimate of the numbers of each as you can, and state whether they have increased or decreased in the past decade. It will be useful if you can enclose a map, with colony, roost and feeding locations indicated. An ordinary road map will suffice. Such information will not be published or otherwise broadcast without your permission. Questionnaire blanks will be sent, with return stamped envelope, on request. Send your data or communications to Robert P. Allen, National Audubon Society, Box 205, Tavernier, Florida."

* * * *

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

The Denver Museum of Natural History announces the following Audubon Screen Tours, at Fhipps Auditorium, Fridays, at 8:00 P. M., free of charge to the public:

January 31 Puerto Rico, U. S. A., by Fran William Hall
February 21 Forgotten Country (Western U. S. A.), by Bert Harwell
March 14 The Faraway Falklands, by Olin Sowell Pottingill, Jr.
May 2 High Horizons (Rocky Mountains), by William Ferguson

* * * *

BIRDS OF THE SEASON

December 31, 1957 - The past fall and early winter seem to have had more than their quota of unusual bird occurrences in northeastern Colorado.

86A1

November's "Bird of the Month" was most unusual and unexpected - an ANCIENT MURRELET, picked up dead on the highway near Lafayette, November 28, by John and Margaret Douglass. This sea bird of the Pacific Coast is apparently the first member of the family Alcidae to be recorded in Colorado, but it has occurred in Idaho and Nebraska, and east to Ohio and Quebec. How such a heavy, small-winged bird could make the flight over the mountains from the Pacific Coast is a marvel, but analysis (by John Flavin) of wind conditions immediately preceding its discovery indicate that the flight could have been made in 24 hours, as there was a strong west wind across the northwestern states. The specimen is now in the collection of the University of Colorado, at Boulder.

Second honors were taken by a female VERMILION FLYCATCHER, found on the Christmas Count by John Chapin and Leonard Licht, about a mile southwest of Denver. This is the third Colorado record for this species, the other two being a female collected in 1950 near Monte Vista by Ronald Ryder and a male found at Barr Lake, October, 1953, by John Flavin. It is also the first member of the flycatcher family on a Denver Christmas Count.

Other unusual species include: a PALM WARBLER, seen by Thompson Marsh in Denver, at Cherry Creek, November 30; several Myrtle Warblers wintering in the vicinity of the Museum of Natural History, at City Park, where they have been seen feeding on insects on the museum walls (first reported by Bertha Durfee); and several scattered Audubon's Warblers in Denver. Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers were additions to the accumulative Christmas Count list, also. The Common Redpoll was recorded by two parties (8 and 1) on the Idaho Springs Christmas Count, December 28, and at Longmont. Nine Whistling Swans were an unusual number at Marston Lake, two being the most seen in any recent previous year. The Mourning Dove is more than usually numerous and the Robin is extremely abundant in the foothills, but not in Denver.

In spite of all the unusual occurrences, nearly everyone who feeds the birds reports a scarcity of birds at their feeders; apparently, the mild weather without snow and abundant seed crops resulting from the wet summer are responsible.

Following are several late migration dates and some unusual occurrences and numbers. Contributors: Jay Arnold, Mrs. C. N. Collister, Catherine Crono, John & Margaret Douglass, Bertha Durfee, John Flavin, Mrs. John Lett, Thompson Marsh, Donald Thatcher, Jean & Parnell White, and Aiken Ornithological Society (AOS). (The Christmas Counts will be reported completely in the next issue.)

Western Grouse - 5 11/24 Loveland (J&MD)
Double-crested Cormorant - 1 11/24 Loveland (J&MD)
Whistling Swan - 9 12/21 Marston Lake, Denver Count, 8 12/26 same (TM)
Old Squaw - 1 12/29 Colorado Springs Count (AOS)
American Avocet - last 2 11/8 Platteville (MrsJL)
Franklin's Gull - 75 11/9, 120 11/14 Platteville (MrsJL)
Pomarine Jaeger - 1 imm. 11/9 Estes Park (J&MD)
Mourning Dove - 1 to 27, 5 days 11/18-30. 22 12/31 SE Denver (TM); 11 11/25, 2 12/3, 5 12/31 Platteville (MrsJL); 20 12/21 Longmont (Count); 100 12/21 (3 occ.)
Denver Count
Blue Jay - 6 12/21 Longmont Count; 1 12/21 Morrison (Denver Count)
Mockingbird - 1 several weeks, reported 1/7 Berthoud (JA); 1 12/8 Bowles Lake (J&PW); 1 12/21 Longmont Count
Robin - seen 7 days 11/13-30, 30 seen in 10 days 12/1-29 SE Denver (TM); 795 12/21 Denver Count; 39 12/21 Longmont Count; 16 12/28 Durango Count; 85 12/28 Idaho Springs Count; 210 12/29 Colorado Springs Count; 1 12/31 Black Forest Count

Golden-crowned Kinglet - 9 11/16, 1 11/20 SE Denver (TM); 1 11/24 Ft. Collins (J&MD)
 Northern Shrike - 1 11/17 SE Denver, 1 12/10 near Aurora, 1 12/14 SE Denver (TM);
 1 12/19 Platteville (MrsJL)
 Loggerhead Shrike - 1 several times 10/16 to 11/21 Platteville (MrsJL); 1 12/15
 SE of Denver (Arapahoe Co.) (JF)
 Orange-crowned Warbler - 1 10/17 SE Denver (TM)
 Audubon's Warbler - 1 11/30 NW Denver (DT); flocks, Longmont and Boulder through
 December (MrsCNC); 4 12/21 SW of Denver (Count); 1 12/27 Near SW Denver (TM);
 1 12/29 Colorado Springs Count
 Myrtle Warbler - 1 11/12 SE Denver (TM); 12 12/8 City Park (Still present at end of
 month) (BD,TM); 1 12/21 SW of Denver (Count)
 PALM WARBLER - (See above)
 Rusty Blackbird - 3 11/28 & 29, 4 11/30 Cherry Creek, SE Denver - feeding in creek
 and tossing submerged leaves aside (TM)
 Brewer's Blackbird - 6 11/15, 1 12/13 Platteville (MrsJL); 1 male 11/24 SE Denver
 (TM); 30 12/21 Longmont (Count); 245 (2 occ.) 12/21 SW of Denver (Count)
 Common Redpoll - 3 12/21 Longmont (CC); 9 12/28 (2 occ.) Idaho Springs Count
 Red Crossbill - 1 11/24 (unusual on plains) Ft. Collins (common in mountains this
 winter) (J&MD)
 White-winged Junco - 5 10/26 Evergreen (TM)
 Chipping Sparrow - last 1 10/31 Platteville (MrsJL)
 Brewer's Sparrow - last 2 10/15 Platteville (MrsJL)
 Harris' Sparrow - 1 12/21 SW of Denver (Count); 1 12/31 Sullivan (TM)

* * * *

COLLEGE ORNITHOLOGY COURSE

The Denver Extension Center of the University of Colorado (14th & Arapahoe Sts.)
 is offering a course in Ornithology (with or without credit), with classes Wednes-
 days, 5:45 to 7:15 P. M., February 5 to June 4, and seven Sunday field trips. Reg-
 istration January 28, 29, and 30. For more information, call MA3-7156.

* * * *

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1958

January

30 (Thursday) 8 PM Regular Meeting - Film on mountain climbing on
 Kilimanjaro Mountain and Ruwenzori Range, in Africa,
 by Allen Auten.
 (Please use north employees' entrance)

February

2 (Sun.) 7 AM Trip to Deer Creek. John Chapin, leader (SK6-2200).
 Meet Alameda Ave., block west of Broadway. $\frac{1}{2}$ Day.
 Transportation 50¢ *
 15 (Sat.) 10 AM Trip to Morrison & vicinity. Sadie Morrison, leader
 (MA3-0840). Meet at W. Colfax & Sheridan. Bring lunch.
 Transportation 50¢ *
 23 (Sun.) 7 AM Trip to Georgetown (for Rosy Finches and Bighorn Sheep).
 Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479). Meet W. Colfax &
 Sheridan. Bring Lunch. Transportation 75¢ *

* Suggested charge for those riding with others.
 All interested persons welcome at trips and meetings.
 Please call trip leaders, if possible.

Note meeting date changed to Thursday.

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 5 No. 3

Denver, Colorado

February 1958

THE 1957 CHRISTMAS COUNTS IN COLORADO

by John Chapin

The 9 counts reported to us show a grand total of 118 species of birds and over 80 participants. Information contained in the counts appear to show a marked reduction in the Northern Shrike population from the last couple of winters (when they were probably at a cyclic peak). On the other hand Redpolls seem to be at a cyclic peak this year.

The increased rainfall of 1957 was reflected in a good Douglasfir cone crop and correspondingly high counts of Pine Siskins, Red-breasted Nuthatches and, in some cases, of Red Crossbills.

Noteworthy among the reports were Western Grebes at Fort Collins and Loveland, Oldsquaw at Colorado Springs, Vermilion Flycatcher at Jefferson County, Mockingbird at Longmont (another which had been at Bowles Lake in Jefferson County before and after was missed on the count), warblers at Colorado Springs and at Jefferson County, Yellow-headed Blackbird at Jefferson County, Vesper Sparrow at Colorado Springs, Lincoln's Sparrow at Loveland, and Chestnut-collared Longspur at Jefferson County.

Certain species seem to occur in certain count areas preferentially. We no longer think it unusual to see Swainson's Hawk, Pinyon Jay, or Bushtit on the Colorado Springs count. Western Bluebirds seem regular at Durango but would be choice on Eastern slope counts. Lewis' Woodpecker appears to like it north and south of Denver but not in the Denver area. An interesting question on local occurrences might be: 'Do Spotted Sandpipers still occur in the Greeley area in the winter?'

The existence of such preferential areas makes a case against lumping all the reporting censuses together and assuming that, if all the 'birder power' of this year were concentrated in a single area, the result would be 118 species.

Participants in the counts are as follows: BLACK FOREST: Richard Beidleman, Hugh Kingery; COLORADO SPRINGS: Aikon Ornithological Society (names not received); DURANGO: Nancy, Paul, Sandra, Thomas Frizell, Oppie Reames; FORT COLLINS: Paul Baldwin, John & Margaret Douglass, John Olive; IDAHO SPRINGS: Joseph & Marion Borden, Phyllis Caswell, John Chapin, Ann Condit, Leonard Dieckman, Netta Hendricks, Ferd Kleinschnitz, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Malick, Thompson, Alice, Lucy, Mary Marsh, Sadie Morrison, Edwin McKee, Donald Thatcher; JEFFERSON COUNTY: John Chapin, Ann Condit, Catherine Crone, Lawrence Crowley, Phyllis Caswell, Leonard Dieckman, John Flavin, Robert Glover, Grace Hardee, Ferd Kleinschnitz, Netta Hendricks, Leonard Licht, Thompson, Lucy Marsh, Donald Malick, Don McLain, Sadie Morrison, Michael Stanley, Ranson Stone, Donald Thatcher, Farnell & Jean White; LONGMONT: Jay Arnold, Mrs. Carl Collister, Harold Dunning, Nellie Simms, Nina Stultz, Mrs. John Thielen; LOVELAND: John & Margaret Douglass; WELDONA: Howard Rollin.

Name of Bird	Blk. For.	Colo Spgs	Dur- ango	Fort Coll	Idaho Spgs	Jeff Cnty	Long mont	Love land	Weld ona
Western Grebe				1				3	
Gt. Blue Heron		2	1			4	2		
Whistling Swan						9			
Canada Goose		1				278	7		
Mallard		229	42	5022		245	51,991	11,322	
Gadwall				17		206			
Am. Widgeon		1		3		25			
Pintail				74		52		8	
Green-wing Teal		25		547		53	40	100	
Blue-winged Teal		6	1	4		5	4	7	
Shoveler						3			
Wood Duck						199			
Redhead		14				82			
Ring-necked Duck						5			
Canvasback		4				11			
Lesser Scaup		2				35	7	118	
Common Goldeneye			26			3			
Bufflehead		2							
Oldsquaw		1							
Ruddy Duck		1							
Hooded Merganser			2						
Common Merganser		5	7			500	1	31	
Turkey Vulture			2						
Sharp-shinned Hawk		2	2			2			
Cooper's Hawk		1				3			
Red-tailed Hawk	2	9	2	2	1	12	5	4	
Swainson's Hawk		1							
Rough-leg. Hawk	1	2		2		3	4	3	4
Golden Eagle	1	5		3	3	7		2	1
Bald Eagle		1		1			1		
Marsh Hawk	4	3	1	7		9	15	1	1
Prairie Falcon						3			
Peregrine Falcon		1						1	
Sparrow Hawk		2	1	3		10	5	3	
(Unident. Hawk)		(2)				(2)			
Scaled Quail		34							
Ring-necked Pheasant		1	9	6		25	21	13	
American Coot		4				68		3	
Killdeer		22		2		16	18	1	
Common Snipe		24	4	2		37	29		
Herring Gull						42	1	19	
Ring-billed Gull				1		68	3	1	
Mourning Dove						100	20		
Screech Owl							2		
Great Horned Owl		3		1		3	1		2
Long-eared Owl						1	9		
Short-eared Owl							3		
(Unidentified Owl)		(1)							
Belted Kingfisher		3	5		1	7	4		
Yellow-shaft. Flicker		1							
Red-shafted Flicker	7	90	12	48	4	120	79	24	
Lewis' Woodpecker		9		4			6	2	
Hairy Woodpecker	6	4		2	2	2	1		
Downy Woodpecker	1	9		3	3	17	3	4	
Vermilion Flycatcher						1			
Horned Lark	97	22	15	2		18	52	1	250
Gray Jay					5				
Blue Jay				1		1	6	3	
Steller's Jay	13	62	6	3	45	22		11	

Name of Bird	Blk. For.	Colo Spgs	Dur- ango	Fort Coll	Idaho Spgs.	Jeff. County	Long mont	Love land	Weld ona
Scrub Jay		76	4	1		36			
Blk-bill. Magpie	40	385	127	57	18	430	194	80	50
Common Raven		2	1		10	10			
Common Crow		74	10	3		96	5100	4	
Pinyon Jay		64							
Clark's Nutcracker		16			16				
Blk-capped Chickadee	2	36	13	26	4	94	22	2	
Mountain Chickadee	70	102	4	4	175	151		3	
Plain Titmouse		3							
Common Bushtit		90							
White-brst. Nuthatch	40	5				2			
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8	54		1	6	12		3	
Pigmy Nuthatch	333	36		24	20	210			
Brown Creeper	9	7		1	3	1			
Dipper		1	12	3	2	2		7	
Winter Wren						1			
Long-bill. Marsh Wren							3		
Canyon Wren		5		1	1	13		1	
Mockingbird							1		
Robin	1	210	16	1	85	795	39	13	
Western Bluebird			7						
Townsend's Solitaire	2	29	1	2	47	56	3	2	
Gold.-crown. Kinglet	3	37		1				5	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		2							
Water Pipit						1			
Bohemian Waxwing					1				
Cedar Waxwing		34							
Northern Shrike	3	1		2		1	1	2	
Loggerhead Shrike		1					1		
Starling	19	160	122	303		560	650	124	60
Myrtle Warbler						1			
Audubon's Warbler		1				4			
House Sparrow		334	73	151	25	285	308	143	75
Western Meadowlark		76		17		220	210	5	4
Yell.-head. Blackbird						1			
Redwinged Blackbird		2	395	40		1200	3225	67	75
Brewer's Blackbird		57	1	5		245	30		
Evening Grosbeak		11				15			
Cassin's Finch	9	41	30		5	205			
House Finch		217		54		250	20	6	
Gray-crown. Rosy Finch					16				
Black Rosy Finch					1				
Brown-cap. Rosy Finch					17				
Common Redpoll				35	9		3	4	
Pine Siskin	20	56	61		142	492			
American Goldfinch		16	104	7		150	35	5	5
Red Crossbill	18				93	55			
Ruf.-side. Towhee (Spot)		23	3			30		1	
Vesper Sparrow		2							
White-winged Junco	11	5				1			
Slate-colored Junco	12	8	2	6	5	18	3	6	
Oregon Junco	121	488	81	40	125	800	84	96	
Gray-headed Junco	3	212	10		192	26		2	
(Unidentified Junco) (112)		(78)			(12)				
Tree Sparrow	47	148		17		412	460	58	50
Harris' Sparrow						1			
White-crown. Sparrow		3				130	27	5	
Fox Sparrow						2			

Name of Bird	Blk. For.	Colo. Spgs	Dur- ango	Fort Coll	Idaho Spgs.	Jeff. County	Long mont	Loveland	Weld ona
Lincoln's Sparrow								1	
Song Sparrow		36	2	5		80	21	4	
Lapland Longspur									5
Ches.-coll. Longspur						1			
Total Species	29	80	39	51	32	84	51	50	13
Party Hours	9 1/2	59 3/4	9 1/2	17 1/4	33	88	?	9 3/4	6
Date (December)	31	29	28	29	28	21	21	31	28
Observers	2	22	5	4	17	22	6	2	1
No. of Parties	2	10	1	3	4	9	?	1	1

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BIRDS OF THE MONTH

by Donald M. Thatcher

February 18, 1958 - The generally mild weather of the past six weeks has changed the winter bird situation but little, and most of the unusual birds reported in the last issue are still with us.

The most unusual reports are two of the HERMIT THRUSH. One was reported at Boulder, the "first week in January", by the Allsebrooks. Another was seen February 13 in northeast Denver by Mrs. Ted Dement, in her backyard. Finding this bird here in winter is not too surprising, but there seems to be only one previous record, a bird of the Eastern subspecies found dead in Denver, February 8, 1939. (Reported by Niedrach and Rockwell). The A. O. U. Checklist mentions the Alaskan subspecies as having occurred in winter in central Colorado at "Middle Brush Creek".

Hawks seem to be somewhat more numerous than usual. The Douglasses report the following 34 seen on a 5-hour trip in the Fort Collins area, January 19: Red-tailed, 1; Rough-legged, 14; Swainson's, 2 (seen well); Marsh, 12; Sparrow, 4; Prairie Falcon, 1 (all single occurrences except 2 Rough-legged).

Following are other unusual species or numbers. Contributors: Jay Arnold, Mrs. Carl Collister, Ann Condit, Catherine Crone, John & Margaret Douglass, Bertha Durfee, Graco Hardee, E. R. Kalmbach, Mrs. John Lett, Leonard Licht, Thompson Marsh, Gertrude Pierce, Donald Thatcher, Parnoll & Jean White, and Boulder Bird Club.

Wood Duck - pair 1/12, 15 Bowles Lake, SW of Denver (P&JW) (First recent wintering of female here)

Common Goldeneye - 62-67 1/1, 11, 25 Estes Park (J&MD)

Hooded Merganser - 1 male, 3 females 1/11, 15 Bowles Lake (GH, AC, JW)

Bald Eagle - 1 2/9 Eaton (Weld Co.) (J&MD)

Peregrine Falcon - 1 2/2 Parker (P&JW)

Mourning Dove - 4 reports of 1 to 40, 1/24-2/9 Loveland, Fort Collins, Parker, Denver (J&MD, P&JW, DT)

Blue Jay - 3 1/5 Hygiene (CC)

Common Bushtit - flock 2/15 Morrison (LL)

Mockingbird - wintering at Bowles Lake (AC, GH, JW); Sullivan (TM); Berthoud (JA)

Robin - common in lower foothills - largest count, 1000 1/13 near Ft. Collins (J&MD)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - "all winter" (1/25) Boulder (BBC)

Northern Shrike - 8 reports 1/5-19 Platteville, Boulder Co., Parker, Denver, Morrison, Evergreen, Sullivan (Mrs. JL, CC, JW, GH, AC, TM)

Myrtle Warbler - 2-3 1/17-51 City Park (BD, GP, TM)
Audubon's Warbler - 1/1 Longmont (Mrs. CC); 1 1/19 Denver (AC), "all winter" (1/25)
Boulder (BBC)
Dickcissel - 1 at feeder, December, Boulder (Mrs. Wheat, banded by the Houghs)
Evening Grosbeak - 14 1/19, 20 1/27 Ft. Collins (J&MD); flock at Boulder, December
& January (BBC) (See following Berthoud notes)
Cassin's Finch - flock of est. 5000 1/25 Big Thompson Canyon, west of Loveland
(J&MD); several other reports.
Common Redpoll - 75 1/19 Windsor (J&MD); several 2/2 Deer Creek (club trip)
Harris' Sparrow - 1 1/19 Sullivan (TM); 1 1/26 Boulder Co. (CC)
White-throated Sparrow - 1 1/19 Boulder (ERK)

Notes from Berthoud, Colorado:

Two of us made a survey of the S. St. Vrain country on January 11. The concentration of birds around Raymond was the greatest I have ever seen at any time and at any place in the Rockies since we moved to Colorado. There was very little in the canyon until we were approaching Raymond. Some few miles below and some few miles above, we found birds. Hairy Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Steller's Jays, Clark's Nutcrackers, Mountain Chickadees and the three Nuthatches were there in usual numbers. I was impressed with the abundance of Townsend's Solitaires. I never saw more Evening Grosbeaks together before in my life. There were flocks of them flying all over the place. There was also a large number of Cassin's Finches. There were Redpolls, Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills. I saw something that impressed me very much. We were watching the Red Crossbills on the ground along the road. The male picked up a stick and seemed to be offering it to the female. This went on for quite a while. I also desire to report that the Mockingbird continues to live around here. It has been here about 2 months.

---Jay Arnold

The following accompanied the Christmas Count report from Durango:
December 30, 1957:

The two Hooded Mergansers were found in the same location as the one last year, a male and a female. Last year was the first for this species on a Christmas Count.

Common Snipe is a first for a Christmas Count. However, it is not unusual for them to be in this area during the winter about small areas where there is a warm spring and the snow melts. These places are outside our prescribed count area. These 4 were found in a group on a flat space along the river entirely free of snow. Normally this area is covered all winter by more than a foot of snow at least.

Of the 395 Redwinged Blackbirds, only a few were males in adult plumage. Immature males and females predominated.

Many fields of oats and wheat had never been harvested due to late fall rains and early snows. Sunflowers and other vegetation covered dry slopes and untilled fields. There is an abundance of food for birds, and I have no explanation to offer for the relatively low numbers to be found. This was true during September, October, and November.

Last year was extremely dry with a precipitation of 9.72 inches. The precipitation this year was 32.12 inches. The 61 year average is 19.16 inches.

---Oppie Reames

* * * *

Mr. Edward Hellstern, of Fort Morgan, a Life Member of the club, passed away January 31, at the age of 88. Mr. Hellstern will be greatly missed, especially by those whose host he has been the past several years for our June trips to Fort Morgan and Weldona. Our sincere sympathy goes to Mrs. Hellstern.

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WINTER BIRDS OF THE DENVER AREA

PART II

by Donald M. Thatcher

Note: The following is the second installment of an article written for the Green Thumb, bimonthly publication of the Colorado Forestry and Horticultural Association, and published in the current, January-February, issue (not in two parts, as stated last month).

Of the thrush family, the Robin is the most numerous in winter, present sometimes only as a scattered few and in other years by the hundreds in and about Denver, its abundance apparently dependent upon the supply of Russian olives, juniper berries and other small fruit. Although there were almost no Robins present at the time of the 1956 Christmas Count (only three were recorded in this vicinity), thousands in spring migration appeared two or three weeks later in mid-January 1957 throughout northeastern Colorado. More consistent is the Townsend's Solitaire, a bird of the mountains, usually solitary, grayish with white eye-ring and buffy wing bars, occurring regularly along the edge of the foothills and frequently in city parks; it feeds in winter on juniper and other berries. Bluebirds are extremely scarce in winter; only the all-blue Mountain Bluebird can be expected before early spring. The red-breasted, red-backed Western Bluebird is sometimes a very early migrant in February and the red-breasted Eastern Bluebird has occurred in the city in mid-winter.

Large flocks of the Bohemian Waxwing, crested, sleek, grayish-brown, with reddish color under the tail and white in its wings, invade the city and environs at intervals of several years; its abundance in the winter of 1956-57 was the first in ten years. A smaller relative, the Cedar Waxwing, browner and with yellow underparts, is fairly regular in winter, but seldom numerous. Both are eaters of small fruits and are readily detected and identified by their rasping or hissing calls. A solitary, robin-sized gray bird with whitish underparts and black on wings, tail and sides of head, perched usually on a fence post or tree top in open country, is the Northern Shrike, a regular winter visitor from the far north, or, infrequently, the smaller Loggerhead Shrike, a common summer resident; the shrikes feed on mice and large insects, occasionally a small bird, and were formerly known as Butcher Birds, from their habit of impaling their prey on thorns or barbs.

Large, close flocks of dark birds often of two sizes which seem to weave up and down within the flock in flight are Redwinged Blackbirds. These birds roost at night in cattails and feed mostly on waste grain in fields or about corrals and barn yards; it is by far the most abundant of small birds in this region, except on the dry prairies. Two other blackbirds are infrequent in winter: the all-black (females are gray) Brewer's Blackbird, common near water in summer and found about farms in winter, and the northern Rusty Blackbird, blue-black or gray with the feathers rusty-tipped, partial to grassy marshes. The well known Western Meadowlark, brown above, yellow below, with white outer tail feathers, winters in small flocks in dry grassland and is common in winter; its delightful warble is given on warm days throughout the winter months.

The most numerous winter bird of the dry, short-grass prairies is our only true lark, the Horned Lark (The Meadowlark is not a lark but a "blackbird"), slender billed, brown above and white below, with black markings on breast and face, and with a black, white-edged tail; it often occurs in huge flocks along roadsides, feeding on weed and grass seeds and waste grain. The Water Pipit, an abundant summer resident in the tundra above timberline, is somewhat similar but plainer, buffy below and with similarly colored tail; it is infrequent at this latitude in winter, but is sometimes found in small numbers about open lakes and streams.

A blackish bird, smaller than the Robin, white-speckled in winter, with short tail and long, sharp beak, occurring about farms and in the city, often in large flocks, is the Starling. This newcomer to this area was introduced in the east nearly seventy years ago and has spread to Colorado, mostly in the last fifteen years. Although it is undesirable, at least to birders, because of its usurpation of the nesting holes of the Flicker, Lewis' Woodpecker, and other hole-nesting birds, it is nevertheless useful as a destroyer of introduced insect pests not recognized as good food by most of our native birds. The Starling has a variety of call notes and imitates native species, as Chickadee, Killdeer, Sparrow Hawk, and many others, to perfection.

An earlier immigrant, better known locally, is the House (or English) Sparrow, not a member of the family of birds to which our native American sparrows have been assigned, although those birds too frequently suffer for its misdeeds. It is abundant about the city and farm buildings and offsets somewhat its undesirable qualities by destroying many insects and the seeds of crabgrass and other weeds. In winter it takes readily to artificial feeding and is generally the only small bird to eat bread crumbs.

In numbers of species, if not of individuals, the family of native seed-eating finches and sparrows, known as "Fringillids", is the most important of our winter birds. More than twenty kinds occur more or less regularly in winter in the plains country about Denver, all but two or three almost always in flocks, large or small. Many of these come readily to suburban feeding stations, where their preference is for seeds, especially sunflower and millet, but their chief food is weed seeds.

Best known of the winter finches about Denver is the House Finch or Linnet, sometimes mistakenly called "Rosy Finch", a native of the southwest deserts which has taken kindly to man and is now nearly as closely associated with civilization as is the House Sparrow, with which it commonly associates at feeding shelves about the city. Basically a light-brown streaked bird like his mate, the male House Finch sports bright red breast, rump, forehead, and line over the eye. A similar, somewhat larger mountain species, the Cassin's Finch, sometimes winters on the edge of the plains; compared with the House Finch, the female is darker, more heavily streaked and the male is less streaked below, with the red a darker, raspberry hue, extending over the entire crown. Three other sparrow sized, reddish finches, the true Rosy Finches, are generally brownish, with the pale, rosy pink confined to the wings, belly and rump; quite different in pattern from the House and Cassin's Finches. The Gray-crowned Rosy Finch is medium brown with a large, gray patch on the sides and top of its head; the Black Rosy Finch is similarly marked but almost black, and the Brown-capped Rosy Finch is pale brown with little or no gray on the head. The last-named is a Colorado native, nesting above timberline, while the other two come from farther north; the three occur on the plains near the foothills and throughout the mountains in mixed flocks, mostly Gray-crowns and very few Blacks, and roost about rock cliffs, frequently in those about the theatre at Red Rocks Park. Another reddish finch, an infrequent winter visitor in small flocks, is the Common Redpoll, smaller, gray-brown with red cap, black chin and (the male only) pink breast; beginners sometimes confuse the House Finch with this species, although the two are very different.

The Common Goldfinch is frequent in flocks, usually in stream bottoms; its winter dress is greenish, with black or dark brown, white-barred wings. A smaller relative, the Lesser Goldfinch, not often found in winter, is similar, but the male sports a black cap. The little Pine Siskin, closely related to the goldfinches, is brownish-streaked, with yellow on the wings and tail; it is erratic in occurrence and is sometimes common about the city and suburbs. A large, robin-sized, yellowish finch, with black and white wings and stout, light-colored bill, is the Evening Grosbeak, another erratic winter visitor, usually in small flocks; it prefers such seeds as those of sunflower and boxelder and will crush cherry pits with its strong beak. One of the few non-flocking finches is the Rufous-sided Towhee (formerly

known in the west as Spotted Towhee), black above, white below, with reddish sides and white spots on wings and tail; it is a ground bird confined to dry brushy places, where it is detected by its noisy scratching among the leaves. The handsome White-crowned Sparrow, brown above, gray below, with black and white striped head, also scratches for its living; it winters in fair-sized flocks in brushland, also about the suburbs and some city parks, and sings its sweet, plaintive song throughout the winter. Occasionally a flock may include one or two of its close relatives, the White-throated Sparrow and the Black-throated Harris' Sparrow.

Usually the most numerous of the winter sparrows are the Juncos. Mixed flocks of three or four different species winter with us, generally in brushy places, a few in the city parks. Juncos are various shades of gray above with white or pale gray bellies and conspicuous white outer-tail feathers. The Oregon Junco is commonest; it has pinkish sides and its head varies from pale gray to nearly black. The Gray-headed Junco, conspicuously reddish-backed, and the eastern Slate-colored Junco with no reddish coloring at all, are much less numerous. The White-winged Junco, similar to the Slate-colored, but larger, paler and having two white wing bars, usually flocks by itself and is more likely to be found in the ponderosa pine forest of the foothills than on the plains. Often in company with the juncos, or flocking alone, we may find the musical Tree Sparrow from the far north, rather plain brown above and gray below, with reddish crown and eye line, white wing bars and a conspicuous, small blackish spot on the breast.

The Song Sparrow, plain, brownish, and streaked below, with a large central breast spot, is fairly common in cattails, more or less singly; it often sings on winter days. Occasionally one will find in the same habitat a close relative, the Swamp Sparrow, resembling somewhat the Tree Sparrow, but with a whitish throat and no breast spot or wing bars.

Large flocks of sparrow-sized longspurs are often encountered in winter on the dry, short grass plains, usually in company with the Horned Lark. These finches have exchanged their bright black and rufous markings for winter plumage and resemble plain, brownish sparrows with distinctive white marks on their tails. The Lapland Longspur from the arctic is most numerous. Two others, the Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspurs are natives of northeastern Colorado and Wyoming. After night-fall during a heavy snowstorm in early December 1955, Lapland Longspurs were heard passing over all sections of Denver, presumably headed southward, during a period of five hours; it is estimated that no less than 90,000 and perhaps several times that number passed over the city, and no one knows how far the flight may have extended to the east over the plains. Small flocks of another arctic bird, the largely white Snow Bunting, with some brown on the upperparts, occur rarely on the plains during severe winters.

Now that we have covered the winter birds of the plains, let us take a short trip into the mountains west of Denver on a pleasant day in mid-winter for mountain birds, especially those sedentary species which seldom or never venture as low as the plains. Some of the birds we should see might be almost uniformly abundant throughout the forested parts of the mountains, while others are confined by narrower habitat requirements.

In the Transition zone, between elevations of about 6,000 and 8,000 feet (somewhat higher on southern exposures), the predominant cover is ponderosa pine forest, with Douglasfir on the cooler north slopes. One bird in particular is almost entirely confined to the pines; the Pigmy Nuthatch, although sometimes it moves over the hill to the Douglasfir when the pine seed crop is short. This tiny, short-tailed nuthatch is smaller than even the little Red-breasted; it is grayish, paler below, with gray-brown cap, and usually travels in noisy flocks of twenty to thirty, often in company with other small tree-feeding species. Another bird most common in the ponderosa pine, but frequent higher in the hills and occasional on the plains is the handsome crested blue jay of the west, the Steller's Jay, ^{called} incorrectly "Rocky Mountain Blue Jay". Dark blue and black, with a long, black crest, it is quite dif-

ferent in appearance from the Blue Jay, but similar in habits. Its variety of calls includes an excellent imitation of the Red-tailed Hawk's scream. Two other species largely partial to this habitat are the White-winged Junco and Cassin's Finch; the latter feeds mostly on the dry fruit of the mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*). White-breasted Nuthatch, Common Crow and Black-billed Magpie also are most likely to be found here.

The Red Crossbill, another oddity, brick-red (female green), with crossed mandibles adapted to twisting scales from pine or other cones to obtain the seeds, is often an abundant visitor in the ponderosa pines when pine seed is plentiful. It may even nest there in mid-winter as it did at Genesee Mountain in 1951-52, when a nest with young was found by the writer and a companion on January 16, the first of several nests. Rarely, flocks of the Red Crossbill are accompanied by a few of the more eastern White-winged Crossbill, pinkish red with white wing bars. The crossbills might also, in some winters, be found only in lodgepole pine, Douglasfir, or spruce, or they might be entirely absent from the entire region, depending on the abundance or shortage of seed of those trees.

Going higher, into the lodgepole pine and spruce of the Canadian and Hudsonian life zones, we find species not ordinarily occurring at lower elevations. One is the uncommon Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, much like the Hairy in size and coloring, but its white sides are barred with black and the male's cap is yellow instead of red. This bird is most valuable as a destroyer of the spruce bark beetle, whose recent ravages in the Western Slope spruce are well known. Here, we should find also the Pine Grosbeak, another stout-beaked reddish finch, with green and gray mate, nearly the size of a Robin; it sometimes wanders lower, occasionally even onto the plains. Better known is the Gray Jay (formerly Canada or Rocky Mountain Jay), known to campers and picnickers as the "Camp Robber", quite fearless and frequently met at picnic grounds. Its relative, the light gray Clark's Nutcracker with black and white wings, often confused with the Camp Robber, is more numerous and sometimes invades the plains.

Commonest in the spruce forest, but occasional in lower pine and Douglasfir, a Blue Grouse or its brownish mate, a game bird which is much less numerous than formerly in this area, may flush into a near-by tree. Near the upper limit of tree growth, in the Hudsonian zone, a person on snowshoes might be fortunate enough to find a White-tailed Ptarmigan or two, pure white in winter, come down from their tundra summer home in search of food; more likely he would find only the birds' peculiar feathered "snowshoe" tracks on the snow.

To complete our list of mountain winter birds, the following species previously discussed as occurring on the plains might be found regularly at almost any elevation below timberline: Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Pygmy Owl (generally prefers open aspen stands), Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Common Raven, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Townsend's Solitaire, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and the Rosy Finches. Robin, Bohemian Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, and Pine Siskin are numerous during some winters, absent in others. The following are frequent about mountain towns, along with many of the small birds listed above: Red-shafted Flicker, Black-capped Chickadee, House Sparrow, juncos, especially the Oregon, and Tree Sparrow. One of the most popular bird attractions for Denver birders is the large flock of Rosy Finches which comes regularly each winter to two or three feeding stations in Georgetown.

There are a number of publications helpful to anyone interested in the winter birds about Denver. These include the following:

- "Guide to the Winter Birds of Colorado", by R. G. Beidleman, University of Colorado Museum, Leaflet No. 12, 1955.
- "The Birds of Denver and Mountain Parks", by R. J. Niedrach and R. B. Rockwell. Denver Museum of Natural History, Popular Series No. 5, 1939.
- "A Field Guide to Western Birds", by R. T. Peterson. Houghton Mifflin, 1941.

The Audubon Bird Guides, by R. H. Pough. Doubleday

"Eastern Land Birds", 1946

"Water Bird Guide", 1951

"Western Bird Guide", 1957

(All three Audubon Guides are necessary for complete coverage as the Western Guide describes and illustrates only those strictly western species not included in the other two.)

It should be noted that the names of birds used here are those of the 1957 revision of the "Check-list of North American Birds" of the American Ornithologists' Union. Many of those names will differ from those used in some of the publications listed above, but most are readily recognizable.

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WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

December 31, 1957 - December has been dry, with only a trace of moisture, but there has been more than the usual number of days of strong wind. The temperature has fluctuated sharply from day to day, one day being like summer and the next quite cold. There has been little birdlife of unusual interest. All hawks are unusually scarce. The Horned Lark is more common than usual and is well distributed throughout the fields and pastures.

February 1, 1958 - The drought which started in late summer has persisted through January. The only January precipitation was 3 inches of snow, January 18-19, followed by the lowest temperature, zero, a day or so later. Winds reminiscent of those of the drought years have featured the month. Bird activity has been dull. Horned Lark and Tree Sparrow are common and well distributed. The Lapland Longspur, especially common in the fall, continued to decrease, very few being present at this time. Hawks remain scarce; only one or two of each are seen during a 40-mile trip.

The following notes summarize the two months:

No water birds of any kind have been seen
Rough-legged Hawk - very few; 4 12/28 most seen
Golden Eagle - scarce, but the most frequent bird of prey
Marsh Hawk - few
Prairie Falcon - 1 1/15, 18-24, the first in many months
Sparrow Hawk - 1 12/23; occasional in January
Ring-necked Pheasant - 1 12/21; rare here, but more southward toward Ft. Morgan
Horned Owl - in usual numbers
Red-shafted Flicker - occasional (December)
Horned Lark - unusually numerous; started singing January 30
Black-billed Magpie - common
Northern Shrike - present to 12/16; returned 12/30, present through January
Starling - common farther south; scarce here; 20 1/15
House Sparrow - practically absent here, but hundreds at nearest neighbor's where ample food is available
Western Meadowlark - small number present; spreading in pastures and singing 1/30
Redwinged Blackbird - rare here, but common southward
Finches - several unidentified flocks seen
American Goldfinch - rare, but more frequent southward
Oregon Junco (Pink-sided) - an occasional few; none since 11/20
Tree Sparrow - common, singing through January, especially the last week

* * * *

BIRD TRIPS WITH COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB

We have scheduled a series of joint field trips with the Colorado Mountain Club (with Bird Club leader) as follows:

April 12	(Sat.)	"Surprise" area. Thompson Marsh
May 12	(Sun.)	Foothills west of Denver (emphasis on Hawks). John Flavin
June 21	(Sat.)	Deer Creek Canyon. John Chapin
July 12	(Sat.)	High mountain area. Ferd Kleinschnitz
Sept. 6	(Sat.)	Lakes and reservoirs near Denver. Sadie Morrison
Oct. 12	(Sun.)	Mountain area. Donald Thatcher

* * * *

Apologies are due those who were inconvenienced by the change on short notice of the January meeting from the customary Tuesday to Thursday, and especially to any regulars who may not have been able to change their meeting night. The speaker, Mr. Allen Auten, was unable to be present on Tuesday. About 50 members of the Botany Club were our guests, to enjoy the excellent film on Mr. Auten's travels in the mountains of central Africa.

* * * *

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY - MARCH

February

25	(Tues.)	8 PM	Regular Meeting - Dr. Gordon Alexander will speak on "Birds of Thailand" with slides and skins. Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History. (Please use north, employees', entrance.)
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March

1	(Sat.)	7 AM	Trip to Daniels Park. Cal Royall, leader (WE6-1788). Meet Alameda in block west of Broadway. $\frac{1}{2}$ Day. Transp. 50¢*
15	(Sat.)	10 AM	Trip to Wheatridge area. Lois Webster, leader (FR7-7462). Meet 27th & Quitman - end of #4 bus line. Bring lunch. Transportation .25¢ *
23	(Sun.)	7 AM	Trip to Barr Lake. John Flavin, leader (SK6-1744). Meet Denver Museum of Natural History parking lot. $\frac{1}{2}$ Day. Transp. .50¢ *

* Suggested charge for those riding with others.
All interested persons welcome at trips and meetings.
Please call trip leader, if possible.

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COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 5 No. 4

Denver, Colorado

March 1958

BIRDS OF THE MONTH

by Donald M. Thatcher

March 19, 1958 - The change from spring to winter, which set in about February 28, slowed down what promised to be an early migration. Several winter species are still with us, later than usual, and reports of new arrivals are scarce.

The bird of the month is a BULLOCK'S ORIOLE, mainly in adult male plumage, except where it should be orange, it is a brilliant yellow, found by Parnell and Jean White near the South Platte River in southwest Denver. First seen March 15, it was still present the 18th and was seen by others. This seems to be the only Colorado winter record for this species, the recorded extremes being early May and mid-October. It parallels the several records in recent years of the Baltimore Oriole in the northeastern states.

One of the Hermit Thrushes reported last month, we are sorry to say, turns out to have been mis-identified. The one reported in Denver for February 13 returned about March 10 and was then correctly identified as a Brown Thrasher, a species almost as unusual in winter, but reported near Denver two or three times in the past few years.

The unusual wintering of Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers seems to be quite general. One or two Audubon's at Longmont (Mrs. Collister), one of each at Boulder (Douglasses) and several of each at Crown Hill Cemetery, 2 miles west of Denver (GH, AC, DT) are the latest reports. Cassin's Finch is still abundant along the western edge of the plains, from Denver vicinity to Fort Collins, and also in the foothills (Genesee Mountain and farther west).

Following are listed some early migrants and several unusual occurrences and numbers. Contributors: Mrs. C. N. Collister, Ann Condit, Catherine Crone, Ruth Dement, Leonard Dieckman, John & Margaret Douglass, Grace Hardee, Robert Hyde, Mrs. John Lett, Thompson Marsh, Donald Thatcher.

Snow Goose - 1 2/22 to 3/8 Latham Res., Lasalle (MrsJL)

Wood Duck - pair previously reported still at Bowles Lake 3/16 (DT) (Last month's note on the first wintering female was in error. A pair was present throughout the winter of 1956-1957.)

Ring-necked Duck - 9 2/22 Berkeley Lake, Denver (TM)

Canvasback - 2 2/21 Loveland - first since fall (J&MD)

Swainson's Hawk - 1 3/3 Longmont (MrsCNC)

Bald Eagle - 1 2/19 Union Res., near Longmont (MrsCNC)

Common Snipe - 1 2/27 Cherry Creek in Denver (TM); 9 3/9 near Boulder (CC)

Mourning Dove - 2 2/16 Platteville (MrsJL); 2/26 & 3/3 Longmont (MrsCNC); 20 2/8 SE Denver (TM)

Great Horned Owl - 3/16 on nest, visible from car on highway, west of Littleton (DT)

Red-shafted Flicker - flock of 12 near Boulder 3/9 (CC) (generally common in smaller numbers)

Red-bellied Woodpecker - 1 2/15 Sterling (RH)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 1 imm. female 3/2 Crown Hill Cemetery (1½ mi. west of Denver) (DT)

Pinon Jay - 150 2/16 Big Thompson Canyon, 10 mi. west of Loveland (J&MD)

Brown Thrasher - 1 2/13, and about 3/10 NE Denver (RD)

Robin - 5 3/1 first at Platteville (MrsJL) (Common in Denver since Feb. 15)
Mountain Bluebird - 3 males 2/28 Loveland (J&MD); 11 scattered 3/9 Boulder Co. (CC)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1 3/1 Mt. Olivet Cemetery (5 miles west of Denver) (AC)
Northern Shrike - 1 4 days 2/2-3/2 Platteville (MrsJL)
Cedar Waxwing - 7 3/16 NW Denver (DT)
Brewer's Blackbird - 6 3/16 near Marston Lake (DT)
Evening Grosbeak - 59 2/23 Boulder (CC)
Lesser Goldfinch - 6 2/22 (DT,LD); heard 1 or 2 3/16 (DT) Red Rocks Park, Morrison
Cassin's Finch - still very common along edge of plains, Denver vicinity to Fort Collins, and in foothills.
Rosy Finches:
Gray-crowned - 15;
Brown-capped - 15;
Black - 3 2/1 Georgetown (TM); (None, 2/23 field trip, probably due to mild weather)

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WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

February 28, 1958 - The past month produced a slight break in the long drought, with .4 inch of precipitation during the weekend of the 16th. Since that time, pleasant spring-like weather dominated until a low moved in a few days ago with strong northwest winds, snow flurries and cold. Bird life has shown some activity. The abundant Tree Sparrows, which were singing frequently, dwindled rapidly until only a few have been present the past few days. Western Meadowlarks have increased to an unusual number; in the mornings they give an unusual chorus, singing and warbling together. Horned Larks also are singing commonly. Lapland Longspurs have been working northward and only one or two each day are seen. The following notes bring bird data up-to-date:

Rough-legged Hawk and Marsh Hawk - a few present
Golden Eagle - still the most common predator
Bald Eagle - 1 2/28 the first in several years
Ring-necked Pheasant - becoming more numerous; most seen, 4 2/14 just south of here
Great Horned Owl - common; no nests found to date
Horned Lark - first flight song 2/17
Blue Jay - common at Fort Morgan
Rock Wren - 1 2/5, the earliest record (Feb. 22, 1957); whether an early migrant or a winter resident is uncertain
Northern Shrike - 1 2/22
Starling - rare here but increasingly common south
House Sparrow - comes and goes in small numbers
Western Meadowlark - common 2/19; singing everywhere past few days
Redwinged Blackbird - first of year 4 2/25, 1 2/26; common south of here
Oregon Junco (Pink-sided) - one occasionally through February
Tree Sparrow - very common February, but fewer last few days
Lapland Longspur - very few at this date

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The Club wishes to thank Donald Malick for the splendid painting of the Great Horned Owl. Sgt. Malick has been transferred to the permanent base of the Air Academy, but we hope he and his wife will still be able to attend meetings and field trips. Best of luck and thanks again!

* * * *

The following was received from Dr. Oliver Scott, of Casper, Wyoming:

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

VANCOUVER 8, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

February 14th, 1958

Dear Dr. Scott,

I believe you are a regional editor of "Audubon Field-Notes", and that some of your cooperating bird-watchers may be interested to contribute also to the B. C. NEST RECORDS SCHEME. We are particularly interested in getting comparative information on nesting biology south along the mountains in Idaho, Washington and Oregon, but also along the Sierras and the Rockies farther south again. I would be most grateful if you could distribute the enclosed literature among your various correspondents.

I enclose 10 mimeo outlines, five reprints and one copy of our latest report for you perusal. Some years ago Richard Pough in an article in Audubon Field Notes suggested a similar method of obtaining more detailed information from nests but at that time the idea does not appear to have been followed up. In B. C. much valuable information is coming in on this matter and we would like to expand the rate of accumulation by adding other observers who might gather pleasure from this work while contributing to its scientific value. If you need more literature I can supply it.

I would be most grateful if you could distribute this material to your cooperators. They should write to me direct.

Yours Sincerely,

M. T. Myros

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA NEST RECORDS SCHEME

In 1955 the Department of Zoology at the University of British Columbia initiated an organization through which information could be obtained from bird observers (amateur ornithologists as well as professional biologists), on the BREEDING BIOLOGY OF BIRDS. Cards, a little larger than post card size, are sent to persons interested in cooperating and they fill these in, according to the data they collect when observing nests of birds which they find in the course of their field activities. Much interesting information has been collected in this way during the past three seasons and we now have information on no less than 5000 nests of 169 species.

Already there have been publications about, or based on, the B. C. Nest Records Scheme (two in Condor for September-October, 1957 and two in Murrelet in the winter of 1957). Three mimeographed annual reports (the last consisting of 14 pages) have been issued to cooperators. Copies of the 1957 report are available and can be supplied to anyone who is interested. It is the policy of the organizers to publish the names of those who cooperate with the scheme, from time to time. The information recorded on these cards is available for serious study upon request.

All that is required of those interested in helping with the work is that they can identify correctly the species of birds whose nests they find. If this proves impossible in any particular case it should not be recorded on a card. Accuracy of recording information is mandatory.

Cards have been received from people residing in remote parts of the interior of the province, at Light Stations (e.g. Race Rocks Light Station), in cities, etc. Participators include amateur naturalists, professional biologists, federal and provincial wildlife officers, lighthouse keepers, members of Natural History Societies and students of school age. This notice is issued to promote yet greater interest in the scheme and a larger number of people interested in participating in its work.

For information please write to:-

B. C. NEST RECORDS SCHEME

c/o Department of Zoology

University of British Columbia

Vancouver 8, British Columbia

From Condor vol. 59, page 308 (September-October, 1957):

The purpose of the scheme is to collect information on birds' nests that ornithologists and bird-watchers find, but which would otherwise go unrecorded or are recorded but left idle in personal field notebooks or diaries. The main items of avian biology that can be analyzed by this scheme are as follows:

1. The timing of the breeding season, the succession of clutches in species which lay more than one, and the variations in laying time from place to place and from year to year.
2. The size of the clutch and how this varies with latitude, altitude and climate.
3. The degree of success that birds have in hatching and rearing their young.
4. The essentials of habitat preference and variation in habitat throughout the range of a species; these data are provided by records of locality, vegetation type, and nest location for each nest found.

* * * *

The following request for assistance is received from Robert W. Schneider, 41 Laurel St., Fort Collins, Colorado, a graduate student working on a study of the Lewis' Woodpecker as it exists in north central Colorado.

I have several problems that additional information might clear up and enable me to do a better study. I have been intensively studying this bird for nearly two years and during that period I have learned a great deal about the habits and mannerisms of the bird but a number of problems have arisen as would be expected.

One of the foremost of these problems is the location of wintering and nesting areas in the Denver area. We have combed the Denver environs and have only seen one or two Lewis' Woodpeckers and then they were late summer observations and the birds had begun their migration. Locations to find a few wintering birds in the Denver area would be most useful. Nesting sites would be of even greater value. I do not need a specific tree but merely areas, for example Table Mountain near Golden was suggested, explored and no birds seen. This of course, does not mean they were not there. We have searched it only in winter months. It would appear ideal as a nesting area.

Another problem is one of distribution. The literature regarding this bird



is scanty but it would seem to indicate a westward movement of the birds. That is, a movement from the plains of eastern Colorado, western Kansas and Nebraska to the foothills. I cannot find any concrete evidence of this idea but any information would help me solidify my conclusions. One reason for this movement might be the increase in the number of Starlings which take over many of the nesting and roosting holes of the Lewis' Woodpecker.

I would appreciate hearing from you if you have any information that would add to my study. I would be more than happy to come to Denver to see you at your convenience and would enjoy talking to you about this study if you would like me to do so. I would appreciate knowing if there are others in the Denver area who might be able to contribute to this study.

* * * *

CALENDAR FOR MARCH - APRIL 1958

March

25 (Tues.) 8 PM Regular Meeting - Cal Royall will give a talk on "Birds of the Hawaiian Chain" with slides. Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural History. (Please use north, employees' entrance.)

April

12 (Sat.) 7 AM Joint field trip with Colorado Mountain Club to a "Surprise" area. Mountain Club leader, Bob Hubbard. Bird Club leader, Thompson Marsh (FR7-5380). Meet at old library bldg., Civic Center. Bring lunch. Trans. .75¢ *

19 (Sat.) 7 AM Field trip to foothills. Donald Thatcher, leader (GL5-7479). Meet Colfax and Sheridan Blvd. $\frac{1}{2}$ Day. Trans. .50¢ *

20 (Sun.) 1:30PM Field trip to Marston Lake and vicinity. Parnell & Joan White, leaders (WE6-0606). Meet W. Florida Ave. & Federal Blvd. Transportation .50¢ *

22 (Tues.) 8 PM Regular Meeting.

26 (Sat.) 9:30AM Field trip to Barr Lake and vicinity. Ruth Wheeler, leader (GL5-3924). Meet at Denver Museum of Natural History parking lot. Bring lunch. Trans. .50¢ *

* Suggested charge for those riding with others.
All interested persons welcome at trips and meetings.
Please call trip leader, if possible.

* * * *

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 5 No. 5

Denver, Colorado

April 1958

STATE-WIDE SPRING COUNT SCHEDULED FOR MAY 17

Birders throughout Colorado are invited to participate in our fourth statewide Spring Count, Saturday, May 17, and to report their results for publication in the summer issue of "Colorado Bird Notes". The corresponding Saturdays of 1955 and 1956 (May 21 and 19, respectively) were found to be later than the migration peaks and produced smaller counts than the preceding week-ends undoubtedly would have. This spring, however, is more like that of last year, when the scheduled date, May 11, was much too early and a last-minute change was made to May 18. Eight counts made May 11 - 12 found 152 species and 16 counts May 18 - 19 listed 212 species.

The spring count is similar to the nation-wide Christmas Count, except that there are no restrictions on the number of hours required and on the extent of the territory covered. Reports should include: names of all observers, hours in the field, miles traveled (by car, on foot, etc.), a rough break-down of the habitats covered and numbers (actual or approximate) of each bird species observed. While space may not permit publication of all the data requested, it is desired for statistical purposes. Reports of counts made the following day (May 18) by those unable to be out May 17 are welcome and will be published if space is available.

Those at Denver who wish to participate should call John Chapin (SK6-2200) or Donald Thatcher (GL5-7479) so that parties can be arranged and assigned to different areas in the vicinity of Denver.

* * * *

WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

March 31, 1958 - The cold and stormy weather of the past month held just about all bird life static here. Substantial amounts of moisture fell during March, the last storm bringing over an inch of moisture in the very wet snow. Precipitation since the first of the year has been 3.6 inches, of which 3.2 inches were recorded in March. The Meadowlarks and Horned Larks, which were singing so freely the latter part of February, were silent throughout most of March and have been singing commonly only during the past few days. Migrants are still very few. Only the Rock Wren is common and this is early for it to be numerous here. The Mountain Bluebird has been recorded only once; it is usually, if not common, here in small numbers for a couple of months in late winter and early spring. All raptors have been unusually scarce.

Following are observations to date:

Red-tailed Hawk (*krideri*) - 1 3/21

Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Marsh Hawk - present in small numbers

Prairie Falcon - 1 3/4

Ring-necked Pheasant - working northward from the South Platte River; a very few present here

Killdeer - first 1 3/20, 21. Ft. Morgan 3/4

Mourning Dove - 1 3/27, 31. Earliest in 11 years

Horned Lark - common

Black-billed Magpie - common
Common Crow - 2 3/4; one or two occasionally since
Rock Wren - 3/21 (first 2/5), now common
Robin - 1 3/22, 5 3/26. Common at Ft. Morgan all winter
Mountain Bluebird - first 2 3/23; second latest date of arrival in 11 years
(3/25/48; 2/2/57)
Northern Shrike - 1 3/2, 1 3/24 (probably last date)
Starling - a few come and go
House Sparrow - 2-4 present
Western Meadowlark - common, singing everywhere
Redwinged Blackbird - 2 3/25 (first since 2/26); a few remain briefly.
Oregon Junco (mearnsi) - 1 3/31 (first since 2/25); (shufeldti) 1 3/31 (first since
11/30)
Tree Sparrow - nearly all gone early March, a few 3/9, common 3/25 and very few
by 3/31
Lapland Longspur - a few present to 3/25 (probable last date for season)

* * * *

BIRDS OF THE MONTH

by Donald M. Thatcher

April 30, 1958 - While the wintry weather of the past month appears to have retarded some of the earlier migrant species, several species have been reported earlier than the averages for the past few years.

To the unusual winter reports mentioned in the February and March "Notes" of Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers from Denver, Longmont, and Boulder should be added three Myrtles and one Audubon's present all winter at Colorado Springs (Mrs. Gilbert Catlett) and an Audubon's at Fort Collins in late March (Douglasses). Audubon's Warbler is now frequent at Denver as a migrant, somewhat earlier than usual.

The concentration of Cassin's Finch continues in and near the foothills. There were several fair-sized flocks at Genesee Mountain Park, April 27. The Douglasses reported four flocks on the plains between Longmont and Loveland, March 12 and seven flocks March 14 between Fort Collins and Berthoud. The Evening Grosbeak is common about Denver, Boulder and Fort Collins, much as it was in 1956.

Migrating hawks have been numerous at some places. The Whites report seeing 25 or more in and hour near Barr Lake, March 23, mostly Rough-legged and Marsh, with one Ferruginous, two Pigeon and 1 Sparrow Hawks. In the vicinity of Morrison (Red Rocks and Green Mountain) the writer, April 27, saw 8 Swainson's (5 in one group), one Golden Eagle, and 8 Sparrow and 1 Cooper's Hawks. Mrs. John Lett reports 10 Sparrow Hawks March 29 and 16 on April 3 during 2½ hour drives near Platteville. The Club trip to Marston Lake April 20 found 12 of that species.

A Robin started its nest high in a bare maple in front of my home in Denver April 10. The nest appeared to be unoccupied until this morning at 6:30 when a Fox Squirrel made breakfast of the eggs, with considerable noisy but ineffective interference by the Robins, with a pair of Starlings as interested observers. An egg which fell to the ground contained an embryo one or two days short of hatching. The incubating mother had endured three or four snowstorms without any shelter whatsoever. Within five minutes, after a last dart by the female at the squirrel, the parents appeared to have accepted their loss and went about feeding as though nothing had happened. This incident confirms our suspicions regarding the probable reason for the failures of all Mourning Dove and House Finch and most Robin nests on the premises during the past several years.

A report has been received from Mrs. Bernice Burt of a pair of Snow Buntings, which she described as "white with brownish markings", seen a short distance south-

west of Denver. There are only three previous reports of this species in this vicinity.

Following are listed migration dates and some unusual numbers and occurrences. The letters E, A or L after some first reports indicate that the earliest dates are early, average or late in comparison with the average dates for the past few years. Contributors: Carolyn Carpenter, Catherine Crone, John & Margaret Douglass, Mrs. C. W. Hansen, Robert Lamb, Mrs. John Lett, Thompson Marsh, Madge Olson, Mrs. Berene Sullivan, Donald Thatcher, Owen Tidagraf, Lois Webster, Parnell & Jean White, and Boulder Bird Club (BBC).

Horned Grebe - 12 4/20 Marston Lake (SW of Denver) (Club) (L)
 Eared Grebe - 1 4/15 (winter plumage) Henry's Lake (W of Littleton) (TM) (L)
 Double-crested Cormorant - 1 4/20 Marston Lake (Club) (L)
 Great Blue Heron - 6 3/22 (some at nests), 12 3/30 Boulder Co. (CCrone).
 Snowy Egret - 4/19 near Fort Collins (LW, CCarpenter, MO)
 Whistling Swan - 4 3/20 Henry's Lake (P&JW)
 White-fronted Goose - 2 4/12 Henry's Lake (Club)
 Cinnamon Teal - 3/30 Henry's Lake (JW)
 Blue-winged Teal - 5 3/30 Ft. Collins (J&MD) (3/24/56, 4/14/57)
 Turkey Vulture - 3 3/10 Boulder (BS); 1 4/12 Near Denver (Club); (2/24/57)
 Swainson's Hawk - 2 3/10 Boulder (BS) (E)
 Osprey - 1 4/20 Marston Lake (Club)
 Greater Yellowlegs - 1 4/3 LaSalle (MrsJL); 1 4/9 Near Greeley (RL); (E)
 Lesser Yellowlegs - 3/30 Henry's Lake (JW) (E)
 Baird's Sandpiper - 9 3/30 Loveland (J&MD); 10 4/9 Vicinity Greeley (RL); (A)
 Western Sandpiper - 2 4/15 Henry's Lake (TM)
 American Avocet - 2 4/3 LaSalle (MrsJL); 1 4/6 Henry's Lake (JW); 4 4/9 Windsor, Weld Co. (RL); 1 4/10 SE Denver (TM) (E)
 California Gull - 12 3/24, 25, 5 4/5 LaSalle (MrsJL) (E)
 Burrowing Owl - 1 4/8 SE Denver (TM) (E)
 Mourning Dove - 1st singing 3/21 NW Denver (DT) (3/27/54, 3/23/56, 3/16/57)
 Say's Phoebe - 1 4/16 Boulder (BBC) (A)
 Tree Swallow - 4/16 Boulder (BBC); 4 4/20 Marston Lake (Club) (E)
 Barn Swallow - 3 4/20 Marston Lake (Club); 2 4/22 Boulder (BBC). (A)
 Rock Wren - 1 all winter SW Denver (OT) (See Weldona Notes. No other spring migrants reported)
 Mockingbird - 1 3/8 Fort Morgan (MrsCWH) (E)
 Robin - 3/14 First flock of year at Fort Morgan (MrsCWH)
 Western Bluebird - pair 3/8 Daniels Park, 2 4/5 5 mi. W of Evergreen (TM) (E)
 Northern Shrike - 2 3/22 Boulder Co. (CCrone); 1 3/29 Platteville (MrsJL)
 Yellow-headed Blackbird - 5 3/23 near Barr Lake (P&JW); 1 4/6 Henry's Lake (JW); 60 4/9 vicinity Greeley (RL). (E)
 Bullock's Oriole - male reported last month at SW Denver still present 4/16 (JW)
 Common Grackle - 1 4/3 City Park, Denver (TM) (A)
 Slate-colored Junco - 3 3/28 Platteville (MrsJL)
 Chipping Sparrow - 2 4/16 SE Denver (TM) (A)
 Tree Sparrow - 2 3/27 Greeley (RL); 8 3/29 & 4/2 Platteville (Mrs JL); 20 3/30 Boulder (CCrone)

* * * *

FIELD TRIPS

The March 15 trip was attended by nine persons, led by Lois Webster. Starting and ending at Sloan's Lake, in Denver, it covered Crown Hill and Mount Olivet Cemeteries and a number of stops along West 44th Street to Golden. Thirty-six species were found, of which the Mallard and the Redwinged Blackbird were the most numerous. Unusual birds seen were Screech Owl (1), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (3), and Myrtle (4) and Audubon's (1) Warblers.

Fourteen members of the Colorado Mountain Club and/or the Bird Club attended the trip April 12 to Evans Ranch, led by Thompson Marsh and Ferd Kleinschnitz. Although no turkeys, for which the trip was planned, were found, the trip was otherwise quite successful. In late afternoon some of the party stopped at Henry's and Bowles Lakes and found a pair of White-fronted Geese at the former. The days list included 49 species.

The trip to Laramie, April 19-20, for courting Sage Grouse exceeded expectations. Sixteen members were met Saturday afternoon at the University of Wyoming by Mr. Keith Stewart, president of the University of Wyoming Wildlife Club, who led the way to the "booming" grounds, 20 miles from Laramie. After sunset two or three dozen Sage Grouse came in to the grounds, a grassy area of a few acres surrounded by low Sage Brush. A pair of inquisitive Antelope and two wary Coyotes added to the interest. Sunday, before daylight, the birders who spent the night at Laramie joined the more hardy campers at the grounds. There were probably between 300 and 400 Grouse present; 190 were actually counted from one point, and many were missed. The birds were watched, photographed, and listened to, some as close as 20 yards, until about 7:30 AM, when the last of the males dispersed. Other birds seen at or near the booming grounds were several Mountain Plover, one Killdeer, 3 or 4 McCown's Longspurs, many Horned Larks and a Prairie Falcon.

Six members and friends, led by Jean and Parnell White, attended the trip to Marston, Bowles, and Henry's Lakes and vicinity, April 20. Forty-four species were seen, including such migrants as Common Loon. Double-crested Cormorant, Osprey, Tree and Barn Swallows, and Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers.

* * * *

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Claude E. Burt - 720 Ogden, Denver 18
Mrs. Gilbert L. Catlett - 318 W. Cheyenne Rd., Colorado Springs
Mrs. Marion Chapman - 1920 Yukon St., Denver 15
Mr. William H. Haslam - 3310 Bollaire St., Denver 7
Mrs. S. C. Miller, Jr. - 2285 Forest Ave., Boulder
Mr. & Mrs. H. W. McNabb - 2346 S. Marion, Denver 10
Rocky Mountain Nature Association - R. M. N. P., Estes Park
June Rynders - 2805 E. 16th, Apt. 6, Denver 6
Mrs. M. F. Shickley - 223 W. 1st St., North Platte, Neb.
Mrs. James G. Stephens - 4000 W. Floyd, Denver 19
Mr. Hal Webster - 7215 W. 12th, Denver 15 (Omitted from last list)

* * * *

CALENDAR FOR MAY, 1958

May

- 11 (Sun.) 7 AM Field trip to Platteville. Mrs. John Lett and Donald Thatcher (GL5-7479), leaders. Meet at Museum parking lot (Montview & Colorado Blvds.). Bring lunch. Trans. 50¢ *
- 17 (Sat.) Spring Count - see notice on first page
- 25 (Sun.) 7 AM Field trip with Colorado Mountain Club along edge of foothills, especially for hawks. John Flavin (SK6-1744) leader. Leader for Mountain Club, Toni Morton. Meet at Water Commissioners Bldg. (Old Library), Civic Center. Trans. 50¢ *
- 27 (Tues.) 8 PM Regular Meeting. Election of officers.
- 31 (Sat.) 7 AM Field trip to Waterton. James Humphrey (GR7-3800), leader. Meet on Alameda in block west of Broadway. $\frac{1}{2}$ Day. Transportation 50¢ *

* Suggested charge for those riding with others.

All interested persons welcome at trips and meetings.

Please call trip leader, if possible.

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COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 5 No. 6

Denver, Colorado

May - August 1958

1958 SPRING COUNT

by John L. Chapin

The 1958 Colorado spring bird count was successful in that 52 observers in 23 parties spent more than 158 party hours finding 191 species of birds. Notable among the successes was the persistence of some early migrant species such as Common Loon, Horned Grebe, White Pelican, Pigeon Hawk, Northern Phalarope, Oregon Junco, Winter Wren, and Tree Sparrow. Coverage in unfrequented parts of the state added eastern birds such as Yellow-shafted Flicker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Magnolia Warbler, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, and Dickcissel; southeastern species as Roadrunner and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher; high mountain birds as the Gray Jay; and such local species as Scaled Quail and Pinon Jay.

Some reports included extremely unusual species which might be confused with other more likely and relatively common ones. These include Winter Wren and Tree and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, all of which were reported without any details. A statement by the observer that he knows such birds are unusual would be most helpful. A report of a Ruffed Grouse was omitted from the count summary until more information regarding the bird can be obtained. That species was formerly known in Colorado only in the northwestern part of the state and is believed to have been extirpated many years ago; this reviewer is not aware of its having been re-introduced.

Publication of the new A.O.U. Check-list settles some of our concern over nomenclature. In the new check-list, no subspecific common names are given. It is hoped that most of the confusion brought on by the use of the subspecific names employed in the earlier check-lists will soon be eliminated. As far as we are aware, the names appearing in the following count summaries are those of the new list.

All counts were made May 17 excepting one (no. 6) on May 18, which includes one species (Solitary Sandpiper) not reported May 17. An incomplete list by Larry Crowley, made near Lyons, adds an additional species (Prairie Falcon) to the May 17 count.

Localities (arranged from east to west and north to south) and observers:

1. Bonny Reservoir. John K. Chapin, John L. Chapin, Thompson Marsh.
2. Two Buttes Reservoir and vicinity (Baca County). Ray Olson.
3. Platteville to LaSalle and Latham Reservoir. Mrs. John Lett.
4. Denver to Cherry Creek Dam - Barr Lake and Mile-High Lakes. Carolyn Carpenter, Phyllis Caswell, Grace Hardee, Lois Webster.
5. Boulder and vicinity - Lyons - Estes Park - Nederland. Mr. & Mrs. H.B. Allsebrook, Venola Bivans, Marjorie Brown, Louise Hering, Ethel Leighton, Mr. & Mrs. C.H. Richardson, Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Sullivan. (Boulder Bird Club).
6. Boulder County, north of Boulder. Catherine Crone. (May 18)
7. Berthoud and vicinity, nearby foothills and Rocky Mountain National Park. Jay H. Arnold, Mrs. Morle Thielen.
8. Longmont and vicinity. Mrs. Cliff Baker, Mrs. Carl N. Collister, Mrs. Fred Fox.
9. Clear Creek, east of Golden. James Humphrey.
10. Red Rocks Park - Idaho Springs - Echo Lake - Squaw Pass - Bergen Park - Genesee Mountain Park - to Denver. Donald Tead, Donald Thatcher.
11. Bowles and Henry's Lakes (SW of Denver), Deer Creek and Foothills. Marian Senior, Cora Stephens.
12. Marston Lake - Daniels Park - Castle Rock - Franktown - Parker - to Denver. Parnell & Jean White, Mrs. Lorena Wilson.

13. Colorado Springs and vicinity. Mrs. T.L. Adams, Mrs. G.L. Catlett, Mrs. L.B. Field, Larry Field, Susan Field, Mrs. Noble Miller, Mrs. William Noble, Mr. & Mrs. George Ginton, Mahlon Speers, James E. Turner, Mrs H. J. Wagner, Mr. & Mrs. H.J. Weberbauer, Mrs. A.D. Williams, Bruce Williams, Jenifer Williams. (Aiken Ornithological Society)
14. Pitkin (Gunnison County). Harold & Althea McNabb.
15. Durango and vicinity. Oppie Reames.

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Common Loon	1														
Horned Grebe												2			
Eared Grebe	35			6			15						100		
Western Grebe			15				7	45					19		
Pied-billed Grebe			3	1	10	1	2	10			2	7			
White Pelican	14		10	1				2							
Double-crested Cormorant			2	17			10								
Great Blue Heron	7		3	9	8	2	14	8			1	1	2		
Common Egret													2		
Snowy Egret				1			2						1		
Black-crowned Night Heron			1		1		4		1				6		
American Bittern			1	2											
Canada Goose				2							10	20			
Mallard	80	12	24	40	10	x	75	30	2		8	19	43		
Gadwall	60		4	26	12		20	25				37	42		
Pintail	20		16	32			4	6				9	10		
Green-winged Teal	1			2		12		10							
Blue-winged Teal	40		24	64	16	12	30	45	2			32	28		
Cinnamon Teal			2	7	4	2	6	6					8		
American Widgeon	12			7	2	8	30	2				2	4		
Shoveler	60	4	24	44	16	8	40	40				7	275		
Redhead			16	7	8	8	24	17				8			
Canvasback	12							1							
Lesser Scaup	60	8		1		4	25					3	40		
Ruddy Duck	10			9			14	11				8	107		
Turkey Vulture	1	2				2		5				7			1
Sharp-shinned Hawk								2							
Accipiter (unidentified)											1				
Red-tailed Hawk	2			1	3		3					3	1	1	2
Swainson's Hawk	7	1		2								3	4		
Ferruginous Hawk	1												1		
Buteo (unid.)								1							
Golden Eagle					2								2		
Marsh Hawk	7	1		4				1					3		
Pigeon Hawk					2								1		
Sparrow Hawk		1	3	3	4	3	5	4		1	1	10	12		2
Bobwhite	2	1	2												
Scaled Quail													7		
Ring-necked Pheasant	20	1	5	9	6	9	15	3				4	5		1
Virginia Rail									1						
Sora	1			1			1								
American Coot	80	6	100	64	14	1	48	51			10	118	60		2
Killdeer	30	x	12	16	26	x	23	12	1		2	14	15		
American Golden Plover				1											
Black-bellied Plover	1							1							
Common Snipe				1	2		2								
Spotted Sandpiper	8	1		1	2		6	1	1			11	2		
Solitary Sandpiper						2									
Willet			1	1											
Greater Yellowlegs					7										
Lesser Yellowlegs			1		2			7				2	3		

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Baird's Sandpiper			4												
Least Sandpiper								1							
Long-billed Dowitcher				9				1							
Stilt Sandpiper	30														
Semipalmated Sandpiper								1							
Western Sandpiper												1	6		
Sanderling	4														
American Avocet	10		25	47	4	12	10	15						5	
Wilson's Phalarope	12		63	95		12	135	30				3	151		
Northern Phalarope			3												
Herring Gull								2							
Ring-billed Gull	20		15	2	6		5	25						39	
Franklin's Gull	2					1	30								
unidentified gulls				3											
Forster's Tern	6		15	4				20							
Black Tern	1200				2	2								1	
Mourning Dove	75		75	32	30	x	50	60	4	6	9	80	186		
Roadrunner		2													
Great Horned Owl	6			2				2						4	
Burrowing Owl	4	2	1					1							
Long-eared Owl										3					
Short-eared Owl				1											
Poor-will							1								
Common Nighthawk	3	1													
White-throated Swift					14		10			12				108	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird					1				1			6	6	2	8
Belted Kingfisher	1				1		2	1	1				2		
Yellow-shafted Flicker	2														
Red-shafted Flicker		x	25	10	18	x	40	20	6	8	1	11	42	1	3
Rod-headed Woodpecker	40	3	2	1	1	2							4		
Lewis' Woodpecker				2	1	1	7	4		1		5	14		4
Williamson's Sapsucker					3		3			4					
Hairy Woodpecker	1				1		1						5		
Downy Woodpecker							2	1					5		
Eastern Kingbird	45	1	3	5	4	6	7	16				10	30		
Western Kingbird	600	x	77	20	3	4	2	3				6	47		
Cassin's Kingbird												1			
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher		1													
Great Crested Flycatcher	2														
Eastern Phoebe								1							
Say's Phoebe				1	1	2	1	1	3	1		1	10	2	
Least Flycatcher							3								
Western Flycatcher				1					1	1			6		
Empidonax (unid.)							1	1		8					
Western Wood Pewee	2						3	1	2				2	4	
Horned Lark	40	x	6	3				1				10	88		
Violet-green Swallow					3		10			3	3	2	14	50	6
Tree Swallow					16								2		
Bank Swallow								2							
Rough-winged Swallow	10			2	1		3					4	9		
Barn Swallow	20		37	14	22	x	30	12	2	2	9	17	13		
Cliff Swallow	3				50		300			4			26		
Gray Jay														2	
Blue Jay	40		2	2				2							
Steller's Jay					6		7			4	1			3	
Scrub Jay												8	24		1
Black-billed Magpie	10	x	13	34	27	x	30	30	x	9	22	58	176		18
Common Raven					2		4			5					
White-necked Raven	1														

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Common Crow	20		1		6			4		3		7	31	5	
Pinon Jay													2		7
Clark's Nutcracker							11			6					
Black-capped Chickadee	2		4	4		x	2	4	1			7	7		
Mountain Chickadee					3		5			4			3	10	
White-breasted Nuthatch					2		1			2	4	2	8		
Red-breasted Nuthatch					1			1					1		
Pigmy Nuthatch							5			12			13		
Dipper							1							3	
House Wren	20		6	4	4	2	6	1	3	2	1	1	13		
Winter Wren													1		
Canon Wren							1			4			1		
Rock Wren	1	2													
Mockingbird	2	9											2		
Catbird	1	1		1	1		3	4	1	1			8		
Brown Thrasher	20	1	1				1	1					2		
Robin	6	x	27	5	48	x	75	24	4	6	28	37	235	x	5
Hermit Thrush								1		1			1		
Swainson's Thrush	60			6	5		7	6	3				1		
Veery		1							1						
Western Bluebird										3		4	14		
Mountain Bluebird					4		22			6		16	20	20	
Townsend's Solitaire										2					
Ruby-crowned Kinglet					8		3			6			12		1
Water Pipit							32								
Cedar Waxwing													19		
Loggerhead Shrike			1				2	1				4	4		
Starling	20	x	100	42	30	x	100	60	x	4		29	236		17
Bell's Vireo												1			
Solitary Vireo				1	2		1			1		7			
Red-eyed Vireo	1	1					1		2			1	3		
Warbling Vireo	1				1	1	3		1				8		
Orange-crowned Warbler								1							
Virginia's Warbler					6					3		4	4		
Yellow Warbler	40	1	12	8	14	x	30	19	4	4		14	62	12	15
Magnolia Warbler	1														
Myrtle Warbler	1						1	2							
Audubon's Warbler				3	26	2	5	6	1	14		1	13	16	5
MacGillivray's Warbler								1		1			1		
Yellowthroat	20		3	8	13	x	8	2	6		1	4	9		
Yellow-breasted Chat	1				3	1	1		5	5		3			1
Wilson's Warbler				1	4		2	1	3	1					1
American Redstart	1								2						
House Sparrow	200		100	49	20		125	55		x	2	22	312		11
Bobolink	4				2										
Western Meadowlark	100	x	50	37	27	x	110	49	1	7	16	55	136		
Yellow-headed Blackbird			x	101	62	x	250	50		1	3	80	24		
Red-winged Blackbird	80		x	40	90	x	350	100	15	20	50	123	301	x	30
Orchard Oriole	40														
Baltimore Oriole	6														
Bullock's Oriole	10	1	8	34	6		16	2	2	1	1	3	37		10
Brewer's Blackbird				4	13		30	5	2	2	33	3	92	x	24
Common Grackle	8		15	1	18		28	21	2			8	30		
Brown-headed Cowbird	4		6		12		3		2		1	5	6		
Western Tanager	1		2		2		4	1	1			3	33	1	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak													2		
Black-headed Grosbeak					6	5	5	5	1			10	52		14
Blue Grosbeak	1														

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Indigo Bunting															1
Lazuli Bunting					2	2	8	2	2	12		6	34		
Dickcissel	3														
Evening Grosbeak								2		4			44		165
Cassin's Finch							15			11			5	20	13
House Finch			75	3	16		36	16	2	4		9	232		5
Pine Siskin	8				40	x	10	5	10	24		8	211	1	16
American Goldfinch	10		20		18	x	22	8	4			13	84		31
Lesser Goldfinch							4						12		
Red Crossbill							6			11					
Green-tailed Towhee			1		1		1	1	1	2		2	4		1
Rufous-sided Towhee	1				6		10			16		24	84		
Lark Bunting	300	x	4	1	1		3						131		
Savannah Sparrow					1		2								
Grasshopper Sparrow													3		
Vesper Sparrow					1		3	2		2		13	3		
Lark Sparrow	25	1	21	6		3	20	6				12	21		
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	5												1		
Oregon Junco													1		
Gray-headed Junco					12		1			7	1		6	8	
Tree Sparrow													5		
Chipping Sparrow	10			1	200			2	1	10	4	16	78		
Clay-colored Sparrow	30				1										
Brewer's Sparrow			1		2			2							
White-crowned Sparrow			1	1	1	6	2	3		1			5	2	40
Lincoln's Sparrow							1	3							
Song Sparrow	2		1		1		2	1	6		4	3	9		3
Chestnut-colored Longspur	1														
Total species (191)	93	35	62	74	89	47	103	92	45	55	28	75	117	22	32
Observers	3	1	1	4	10	1	2	3	1	2	2	3	16	2	1
Parties	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	1	1
Party hours	15	9	4	13	18	3	14	12	2	10	6	11	33	4	3

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WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

April 30, 1958 -- Bird life in this immediate vicinity has been scarce. Almost all birds, and especially the migrants, are few in number. The cold weather during most of April slowed migration drastically and only one or two of most species have been noted. Total precipitation has been $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in April and 6.1 inches this year.

No ducks have been seen here. Hawks are very few, except the Sparrow Hawk, which is common. The Ring-necked Pheasant is more numerous out this way than it has been in years, but the number seen is still very small. The only small wader is the Killdeer, in its usual small numbers. Several gulls have been seen; I am uncertain of the species:--gray-blue mantle and white below, no black visible on the wing tips, and appears to be larger than the Franklin's. The Mourning Dove is about in small numbers. Great Horned and Barn Owls are present. Magpie has nests ready for eggs. Rock Wren is quite common along the canyons. House Sparrow is absent or visits here only briefly. Western Meadowlark is very common, spread out through the pastures and old fields. A few Common Grackles stray in now and then.

Red-tailed Hawk - 1 4/21.
Swainson's Hawk - first 1 4/1, 1 4/28
Marsh Hawk - scarce
Gull (Ring-billed or Herring/) - 2 4/5, 1 4/9
Barn Owl - first, 2 4/2; remaining
Say's Phoebe - first 1 4/1; nest ready for eggs at this time
Horned Lark - nesting; young in some nests
Sage Thrasher - first 1 4/6, 1 5/10; scarce this year. (1st 1957, 4/5)
Robin - 1 4/2; 20 near Fort Morgan 4/8
Mountain Bluebird - 1 4/2 (1st since 3/23); only 3 this year
Loggerhead Shrike - 1st 1 4/12, 22; remains.
Starling - increasing; 4-5 usually present, trying to find nesting sites about buildings
Audubon's Warbler - 1 4/8, the first seen here in spring in 6 years
Red-winged Blackbird - 2 4/8, 23; 15 4/27 the most seen this year (unusually few)
Brewer's Blackbird - 1st, 6 4/27, 28; increasing past 2-3 days
Brown-headed Cowbird - first 1 4/23, 27; few remain
American Goldfinch - 1st 1 4/12; seen once only
Vesper Sparrow - 1st 1 4/19, 20; now fairly common
Oregon Junco - Pink-sided, Montana and Shufeldt's all last seen 4/9; all very few in number
Tree Sparrow - last, 4/9
Chipping Sparrow - 1st 1 4/29
Brewer's Sparrow - 1st, 3/27, 28; fairly common
White-crowned Sparrow - 1st, 1 4/18 (1957, 3/4); a few present
Song Sparrow - 1 4/10 (the only one this year)
McCown's Longspur - 1st, 4 4/3, 6; 4/27 probably last date.

May 31, 1958 -- May was rather dry, but we recorded 2.2 inches of rainfall, with other places having substantially greater amounts. Some severe and devastating hail and rain storms occurred, one within two miles of here. The hills are brilliantly green at this time, but the heat of the last few days will soon start them drying unless more moisture comes soon. So far this year 8.3 inches have been recorded, in comparison with 9.4 at the same date last year.

Birds became increasingly common in May and most species usually seen here were represented. Some were very common and others were on the scarce side. Five species of warblers were seen, in contrast to only one last year (Black-throated Green). Lark Buntings were unusually common during migration and a good number have remained to nest. Only 1 or 2 Chipping Sparrows were seen, while the Clay-colored was very common.

Following are observations to date;

Mallard - 2 5/22 (the only ducks seen here this spring)
Swainson's Hawk - nesting, in very low numbers
Golden Eagle - very few present
Marsh Hawk - unusually scarce
Sparrow Hawk - here in small numbers; unusual to see it here so late, but a few are seen most days.
Ring-necked Pheasant - present in various places, but not seen right here recently
Killdeer - present in small numbers; some have young.
Upland Plover - 1 5/16 through 5/21 (very rare here)
Black Tern - 13 5/25 (very rare here)
Mourning Dove - common; nesting or with young at this time
Barn Owl - very few remain in canyons
Great Horned Owl - less numerous than in other years; no nests found
Poor-will - 2 5/10; becoming more rare
Common Nighthawk - first, 2 5/22; very common to date
Red-shafted Flicker - none in May
Eastern Kingbird - 1st, 5/5; a few remain

Western Kingbird - 1st, 5/5; now common
 Say's Phoebe - present in usual small numbers; those nesting over the door have young at this time
 Western Wood Pewee - 1 5/27; a rare spring migrant (only other record in 11 years: 1 5/26/52)
 Horned Lark - nesting and some have young on wing; flight song common
 Barn Swallow - 1st 1 5/6, 27 (the only 2 seen)
 Rough-winged Swallow - 1st, 3 5/10, 11; remains unusually common
 Blue Jay - 1 5/18 along creek; 2 5/20 here at house
 House Wren - 1st 1 5/5, 7; seen only twice to date
 BEWICK'S WREN - 1 5/6, first record here; had beautiful song
 Rock Wren - still fairly common; nesting at this time
 Mockingbird - 1st 5/2 (same date last year), again 5/3; only two pairs here this year and neither is nesting at the house.
 Sage Thrasher - singing 5/2; stayed several weeks, but not seen recently
 Brown Thrasher - 1st, 5/3, 4; nest by front door completed 5/9; feeding young at this time; evidently another pair nesting in nearby canyon
 Robin - last seen here, 1 5/3
 Loggerhead Shrike - scarce, but seen occasionally
 Starling - first nesting here; destroyed House Sparrows' nest and were discouraged before they destroyed Phoebe or Brown Thrasher nests
 Orange-crowned Warbler - 1st, 2 5/5, 7; last, 5/24
 Yellow Warbler - 1st 1 5/7, 18; last 5/26
 Myrtle Warbler - 1 5/7
 Audubon's Warbler - 1 5/20 (first was seen in April)
 BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER - 1 5/7 (very rare)
 House Sparrow - very few here; one pair present
 Western Meadowlark - common this year and nesting at this time
 Yellow-headed Blackbird - 1st 1 5/13, 18 (last)
 Red-winged Blackbird - 2 5/4, 1 5/22; still scarce here
 Bullock's Oriole - 1st 1 5/11, common 5/12; few remain
 Brewer's Blackbird - common 5/6; last 5/23
 Common Grackle - 7 5/9; last 5/12
 Brown-headed Cowbird - 1st female 5/1; common 5/5, but now scarce
 Western Tanager - 1 5/27 (rare here)
 American Goldfinch - common 5/13 in trees along creek; 1 5/30 at house, where seldom seen
 Lesser Goldfinch - first & only, 3 5/9
 Green-tailed Towhee - 1st 1 5/7, 8, 9 (last)
 Rufous-sided Towhee - 1st 1 5/7, 8, 9 (last)
 Lark Bunting - 2 5/4, 5; 1st female 5/6; common 5/8; very common 5/12 and now present in fair numbers
 Vesper Sparrow - last seen 5/21
 Lark Sparrow - 1st, 3 5/3, 6; common 5/15; few remain
 Chipping Sparrow - 1 5/1
 Clay-colored Sparrow - 1st 20-25 5/6, 7; last, 5/13
 Brewer's Sparrow - present in usual numbers
 White-crowned Sparrow - few this year; last, 5/11

The following species, usually expected here, have not been seen this spring:
 Long-billed curlew (becoming more scarce), Catbird, Blue Grosbeak and Grasshopper Sparrow.

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BIRDS OF THE SEASON

by Donald M. Thatcher

The spring season and its bird migration followed much the same pattern as those of 1957, both being much later than those of the warmer, dry drought years. While the first reports for many species were no later, or even earlier, than the average dates for the past few years, the migration peaks for several were late, as in 1957, some occurring even after the May 17-18 Spring Count. The Yellow Warbler, probably the most reliable species for announcing its first arrival in this vicinity, was on schedule, but its arrival in numbers was delayed. (See dates in list below.)

The most notable increase (or invasion) is probably that of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, which was reported at several places near the foothills, from Sedalia to Fort Morgan. Yellow-breasted Chat and Lazuli Bunting seem to be more numerous than in past years. The Red Crossbill was common in the foothills during the winter and through June; although no nests were found, several streaked young were noted. (April - June).

Following are listed first dates for most migrant species, accompanied by the first dates for the past two, three, or four years (in parentheses); a number of unusual species, numbers, or nesting observations; and some early fall migrants. A few dates, marked *, are earlier than those given for the same species in our April report.

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First Migrants:

Common Loon - 4/22 LaSalle (Mrs.JL) (4/14/57)
 Western Grebe - 8 4/21 LaSalle (Mrs.JL) (4/10, 4/24, 4/20, 4/21)
 White Pelican - 3 3/27 (early) Marston Lake (Littleton) (EH); 2 5/17 (Mrs.CNC), 1 5/22 (JA) LaSalle; 2 5/31 Sterling (Mrs.KM) (4/18, 4/22, 5/11)
 Common Egret - 4/26 Mile High Lakes (Club)
 American Bittern - 1 4/21 LaSalle (Mrs.JL); 5/2 Boulder (BBC); 2 5/4 Barr Lake (LW) (4/26, 4/18, 4/7, 5/11)
 White-faced Ibis - 3 5/4 Berthoud (JA); 1 5/4 Barr Lake (LW, J&PW) (4/30, 4/28, 5/7)
 Spotted Sandpiper - 4/26 Barr L. (Club); 2 5/6 SE Denver (TM) (5/8, 4/18, 4/28, 4/26)
 Solitary Sandpiper - 1 4/22 Denver (TM); 1 5/3 Cherry Creek Dam (SE of Denver) (LW, CCar); 1 5/4 Boulder County (CCrone); 1 5/4 Barr L. (LW) 4/27, --, 4/25, 4/27
 Willet - 4/26 Barr L. (Club); 1 5/3 Cherry Cr. Dam (LW, CCar); 1 5/10 Mile-hi Lakes (LW, PC) (4/30/55)
 Least Sandpiper - 1 5/17 Longmont (Mrs.CNC) (5/16, 4/14, 4/23)
 Long-billed Dowitcher - 22 4/25 LaSalle (Mrs.JL) (4/30, 4/22, 5/5)
 Stilt Sandpiper - 1 5/22 LaSalle (JA) (5/11/57)
 Semipalmated Sandpiper - 4/26 near Barr L. (Club); 1 5/17 Longmont (Mrs.CNC) (4/27/57)
 Marbled Godwit - 1 4/22, 11 4/24, 9 4/26 LaSalle (Mrs.JL); 2 4/26 Barr L. (Club) (4/25, --, 4/22, 4/26)
 Wilson's Phalarope - 4 4/22 LaSalle (Mrs.JL); 4/26 Barr L. (Club) (5/1, 4/30, 4/21, 4/20)
 Northern Phalarope - 3 5/17 LaSalle (Mrs.JL)
 Franklin's Gull - 5 4/30 Platteville (Mrs.JL); 30 5/17 near Berthoud (JA, MT) (4/1, 4/13)
 Forster's Tern - 5 4/28 30 LaSalle (Mrs.JL)
 Black Tern - 2 5/18 Boulder (CCr) (5/22, --, 5/7, 5/4)
 Poor-will - 5/10 (see Wadena Notes, page 56); 1 5/17 Berthoud (JA, MT); 1 5/18 Cherry Cr. Dam (TM) (5/12, 5/21, 5/6, 5/16)
 Common Nighthawk - very early flock 5/3 Boulder (BBC); 3 5/17 Bonny Dam (JC, TM); first heard 5/25 downtown Denver (DT) (5/18, 5/25, 5/19, 5/23)

White-throated Swift - 10 5/17 Berthoud (JA,MT); 12 5/17 Red Rocks Park (DT)
(4/4,4/9,3/31,4/20)

Broad-tailed Hummingbird - 2 5/13 SE Denver (TM); 5/17 Durango, Pitkin, Golden
(5/8,5/13,5/12,5/5)

Red-headed Woodpecker - 1 5/13 Platteville (MrsJL)

Williamson's Sapsucker - 3 5/17 foothills near Berthoud (JA,MT); 4 5/17 Genesee
Mountain Park (DT) (4/4,--,4/16,3/24)

Eastern Kingbird - 5/5 (see Weldona, p. 56); 2 5/9 Platteville (MrsJL); 1 5/13 Denver
(TM); 5/17 Berthoud, Longmont, Bonny Dam (5/6,5/2,5/11)

Western Kingbird - 4 5/3 Platteville (MrsJL); 1 5/8 Denver (TM); (5/8,4/29,4/6,5/6)

Cassin's Kingbird - 1 5/17 near Denver (P&JW)

Traill's Flycatcher - 1 5/15 SE Denver (TM)

Least Flycatcher - 3 5/17 Berthoud (JA,MT); 1 5/25 Bonny Dam (CCar,LW,PC) (5/18/57)

Western Flycatcher - 1 5/11 Boulder (P&JW); 6 5/17 Red Rocks (DT); 3 5/17 Barr Lake
(CCar,LW,PC,GH) (5/2,5/1,--,5/18)

Western Wood Pewee - 1 5/11 Platteville (Club); 1 5/12 Denver (TM) (5/18,--,5/19,5/11)

Violet-green Swallow - 4/19 Durango (early) (OR); 5/17 Durango, Berthoud, foothills
near Denver (5/1,5/8,4/21,4/27)

Bank Swallow - 4/26 Barr L. (Club); 2 5/17 Longmont (MrsCNC) (5/11,--,4/27,4/28)

Rough-winged Swallow - 5/10 (see Weldona, p. 57); 3 5/17 Berthoud (JA,MT)
(4/24,4/26,4/27)

Barn Swallow - 1 4/16* Platteville (MrsJL) (4/28,4/21,4/14,4/21)

Cliff Swallow - 1 5/11 Boulder (P&JW); 300 5/17 near Berthoud (JA,MT); 4 5/17 Golden
(DT) (5/1,--,4/28,4/27)

House Wren - 1 5/3 Red Rocks (Club); 2 5/6 Platteville (MrsJL); 5/17 several reports
(4/27,4/24,4/19,4/28)

Catbird - 1 5/16 SE Denver (TM); 5 reports 5/17 Denver to Berthoud (5/15,4/19,
4/13,5/13)

Brown Thrasher - 5/3 (see Weldona, p.57); 1 5/10 Mile High Lakes (LW,PC)
(5/8,3/26,5/6,4/4)

Hermit Thrush - 1 4/24 Boulder (OT); 1 5/7 Denver (TM) (4/8,4/16,5/6,4/28)

Swainson's Thrush - 1 5/8 Denver (TM); 1 5/10 Mile High Lakes (LW,PC)
(5/15,5/7,5/11,5/3)

Veery - 1 5/17 Golden (JH) (5/12,5/18)

Cedar Waxwing - 12 4/20 Boulder (OT); 1 5/2, 2 5/4 Boulder (BBC); 12 5/3 Denver (DT);
2 5/25 with flock Red Crossbills, Genesee Mtn. Park (unusual at that elevation
(Club))

Loggerhead Shrike - 4/12 (see Weldona, p. 56); 1 4/22, 5 5/1 Platteville (MrsJL);
5/3 SE of Denver (LW,CCar) (4/17,--,4/29,4/17)

Bell's Vireo - 1 5/17 near Denver (P&JW)

Solitary Vireo - 1 5/16 Denver (TM); 9 in 3 reports 5/17 Denver, Berthoud, Genesee
Mtn. Park (5/14,--,5/11)

Red-eyed Vireo - 5 (4 reports) 5/17 Denver, Golden, Berthoud, Bonny Dam; 1 5/18
Cherry Cr. Dam (TM) (5/16,--,5/19,5/18)

Warbling Vireo - 3 5/17 near Berthoud (JA,MT); 1 5/17 Golden (JH); 1 5/17 Bonny
Dam (JC,TM) (5/16,5/14,--,5/11)

Orange-crowned Warbler - 1 5/4 Red Rocks (Club); 1 5/7 Berthoud (JA) (5/2,4/24,
4/28,5/5)

Virginia's Warbler - 1 5/3 SE of Denver (LW,CCar); 1 5/4 Red Rocks (Club) (5/2,5/1,
5/5,5/12) 5/9 Durango (5/4/57) (OR)

Yellow Warbler - 5/6 Boulder (CCr); 5/7 Denver (AC,TM,DT) (5/5,4/30,5/5,5/7);
5/11 Durango (OR) (on time)

Myrtle Warbler - 4/26 near Barr L. (Club) (4/26,4/23,4/19,4/15)

Audubon's Warbler - 4/23 Durango (OR) (early). (4/14,4/23,4/19,4/27 - NE Colorado)

Magnolia Warbler - 1 5/17 Bonny Dam (TM,JC)

Northern Waterthrush - 1 5/10 Berthoud (JA); 1 5/13 SE Denver (TM) (5/5,5/11)

MacGillivray's Warbler - 1 5/11 Boulder (P&JW); 5/17 Longmont and Red Rocks Park
(5/16,4/24,5/5,5/5)

Yellowthroat - 1 5/10 Mile High Lakes (LW,PC); 1 5/10 SE Denver (TM)
(5/4,4/24,4/29,4/21)

Yellow-breasted Chat - 16 (6 reports) 5/17 Durango, Denver & vicinity, Berthoud, Bonny Dam (5/8, 5/14, 5/11, 5/18)
 Wilson's Warbler - 5/9 Durango (OR) (on time); 8 (5 reports) 5/17 Denver to Berthoud (5/2, 4/17, 5/6, 4/15)
 American Redstart - 2 5/17 Golden (JH); 1 5/17 Bonny Dam (JC, TM); 1 5/18 Cherry Creek Dam (TM) (5/16/54, 5/18/57)
 Bullock's Oriole - 2 5/7 SE Denver (TM); 5/9 Durango (OR) (5/8/57); 1 5/11 Platteville (Club) (5/7, 5/10, 5/9, 5/8)
 Brown-headed Cowbird - 4/23 (see Weldona, p. 56); 1 male 5/2 Denver (TM) (5/9, 4/8, 4/15, 4/18)
 Western Tanager - 1 5/11 Boulder (P&JW); 13 (7 reports) 5/17 Pitkin, Denver, Golden, Longmont, Berthoud, Platteville, Bonny Dam. (5/8, 5/14, 5/7, 5/11). (None at Durango by 5/17; 1957, arrived 5/7 (OR)).
 Black-headed Grosbeak - 1 male 5/6 Denver (TM); 1 female 5/11 Platteville (Club) (5/14, 5/8, 5/9, 5/6). 5/15 Durango (5/5/57) (OR)
 Blue Grosbeak - 1 5/17 Bonny Dam (JC, TM)
 Lazuli Bunting - male 5/16 Denver (TM); 30 (5 reports) 5/17 Denver to Berthoud (4/25, 5/3, 4/30, 5/11)
 Green-tailed Towhee - 1 4/30 Boulder (OT); 1 5/2 Denver (TM) (5/2, 5/1, 4/30, 4/10)
 Lark Bunting - 5/4 (see Weldona, p. 57); 2 5/6, 8 5/7 Platteville (MrsJL); female 5/9 SE Denver (TM); 3 5/17 Berthoud (JA, MT) (4/25, 4/28, 5/1, 5/2)
 Savannah Sparrow - 1 4/16 LaSalle (MrsJL) (5/3, 4/23)
 Vesper Sparrow - 1 4/19 LaSalle (MrsJL); 4/19 (see Weldona, p. 56) (5/1, 4/13, 4/10, 4/21)
 Lark Sparrow - 1 5/1, common by 5/7 Platteville (MrsJL); 2 5/8 Denver (TM) (4/30/54, 5/7/57)
 Brewer's Sparrow - 3/27 (Weldona, p. 56); 2 5/6, 9 Platteville (MrsJL) (5/1, 5/1, 4/30, 4/25)
 Lincoln's Sparrow - 2 4/27 Boulder (OT); 1 5/4 Barr L. (P&JW); 1 5/6 Denver (TM)

Unusual occurrences or numbers:

White Pelican - 400 plus 4/30-5/3, 10 still present 5/19 LaSalle (MrsJL)
 Snowy Plover - 3 5/24, 2 5/25 Bonny Dam (CCar, LW, PC)
 Semipalmated Plover - 2 5/1, 1 5/3 Henry's Lake (Morrison) (JW); 7/18 Berthoud (JA)
 American Golden Plover - 1 5/17 near Barr Lake (CCar, PC, LW, GH)
 Black-bellied Plover - 1 5/10 Mile High Lakes (LW, PC); 1 5/17 near Longmont (MrsCNC); 1 5/17 Bonny Dam (TM, JC); 11 5/24, 3 5/25 Bonny Dam (CCar, LW, PC)
 Mountain Plover - 20 6/28 7 miles north of Nunn (JA)
 Dunlin - 1 4/26 Mile High Lakes (TM, CCar, LW, RS)
 Marbled Godwit - 2 6/28 LaSalle (JA) (This species believed not to breed south of the Dakotas.); 3 7/27 LaSalle (JA)
 Black-necked Stilt - 2 6/11 Berthoud (JA) (Outside probable breeding range)
 Band-tailed Pigeon - 2 7/12 Genesee Mtn. Park (Club)
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 3 5/24, 2 5/25 Bonny Dam (CCar, LW, PC); 1 5/28 Berthoud (JA); 4 6/8 Fort Morgan (Club); 1 6/10 & 14, 2 6/15 NW Denver (DT); 1 6/14 Sedalia (SM); 2 6/22 SW Denver, 1 7/5 near Golden (P&JW); nest at Sedalia, early July (RJN)
 Black-billed Cuckoo - 1 6/6 Berthoud (JA)
 Long-eared Owl - Pair with 2 young in Lodgepole Pine forest, north side Genesee Mountain, 7/12 (Club trip). Adds a new species to the supposed breeding population of that area. This species with young out of nest seen also at Red Rocks Park 5/17/58, (DT) (apparently nested in cliffs immediately south of "Pueblo") and at Fort Morgan in Cottonwoods near South Platte River, 6/8 (Club).
 Chimney Swift - 1 5/11 Boulder (P&JW); 3 6/18 downtown Denver (DT)
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 1 5/17 near Campo (Baca Co.) (RO); 1 5/19 near Colorado Springs (AOS); 2 5/30 near TIMNATH (TM)
 Eastern Phoebe - 1 5/17 Longmont (MrsCNC)
 Blue Jay - heard several times, June & July, NW Denver (DT); 1 7/2 Denver (Capitol Hill) (BB)
 Pinon Jay - 50 5/17 LYONS (LC)
 Bewick's Wren - see Weldona, p. 57
 Black-and-White Warbler - 1 5/11 Boulder (P&JW); 5/7 (see Weldona p. 57)

Black-throated Gray Warbler - 1 5/7 Berthoud (JA)
Blackpoll Warbler - 5/12 Boulder (BBC)
Yellow-breasted Chat - 4 nests, apparently none successful, Sedalia (RJN)
Starling - nesting at Gonesee Mtn. Park, in cavity in dead Ponderosa Pine; another cavity in same tree being occupied by Williamson's Sapsucker. This adds another species to the breeding birds of that area. (DT)
Bobolink - 4 5/17 Bonny Dam (JC, TM); 2 5/8 near Boulder (BBC); 1 5/21 near Berthoud (JA); 1 5/25 near Boulder (CCR)
Orchard Oriole - 40 5/17 Bonny Dam (TM, JC); 1 immature male 6/8 near BERTHOUD (JA)
Dickcissel - 3 5/27 Bonny Dam (JC, TM); at 2 locations near Berthoud, 6/11 and July (JA); 1 6/21 Marston Lake (Club)
PURPLE FINCH - 1 5/1 SE Denver (TM)
Harris' Sparrow - 1 4/26 Mile High Lakes (CCar, RS, LW, TMO)

Fall migrants:

Franklin's Gull - first, large flock 8/12 Denver (DT)
Sage Thrasher - 2 7/24 near Marston L. (JC)
Bullock's Oriole - 1 8/4 Denver (DT)
Western Tanager - 1 singing 8/1 NW Denver (DT)

Additional unusual species:

Northern Phalarope - 1 7/29 LaSalle (JA)

* * * * *

INFORMATION WANTED ON GRAY-HEADED JUNCO

We have two requests for information on the Gray-headed Junco:

(1) Birders are asked to watch for banded Gray-headed Juncos with a metal band on the right leg and a green band on the left. About 100 were so banded last winter at Boulder for a special study of their spread to their summer breeding grounds in the mountains. Any information on the observation of these birds should be sent, with date and locality, to J. N. Hough, 1515 Mariposa, Boulder, Colo.

(2) To help complete the last volume of Bent's "Life Histories", published by the Smithsonian Institution, Donald Thatcher has agreed to write up the Gray-headed Junco. Any information on the habits of this bird from your files or from current observations will be appreciated. Information desired includes any on migration, breeding, nesting, notes, food, enemies, associated species, winter and summer habitats, abundance, etc., with dates and places. This species now includes both Junco caniceps caniceps (page 191 in Peterson's Western Guide) and Junco caniceps dorsalis (formerly Junco phaeonotus dorsalis, Red-backed Junco, in Peterson). This is one of the relatively neglected species and "Auk", "Condor" and other journals contain very little information on it. All contributions used will be properly credited. Please send to Donald M. Thatcher, 2916 Perry St., Denver, Colo.

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CALENDAR FOR AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1958

August

23 (Sat.) 7 AM Trip down South Platte River, north of Denver. Ray Olson, leader (HA4-6823) Meet at museum parking lot, City Park. Bring lunch

September

6 (Sat.) 7 AM Trip for water birds, near Denver, with Colorado Mountain Club. Sadio Morrison, leader (MA3-0840). Meet at Board of Water Commissioners Building (Old Library), Civic Center

20 (Sat.) 7 AM Trip to Marston Lake and vicinity (for jaegers, perhaps).

Ann Condit, leader (GE3-0492). Meet at West Colfax and Sheridan Blvd.

23 (Tues.) 8 PM Regular meeting. Denver Museum of Natural History, City Park.

All interested persons are welcome at trips and meetings.

Please call trip leaders, if possible.

* * * * *

Add the following, all reported seen in Boulder County, north of Boulder,

August 10, by Catherine Crone:

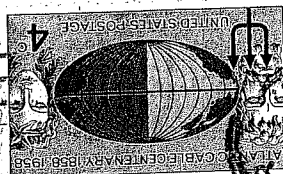
Unusual occurrences (page 60): Black-necked Stilt, 2; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2.

Fall migrants (page 61): Franklin's Gull, 100.

DENVER 11, COLO.

3340 W. 37th AVE.

MISS RUTH WHEELER



Colorado Bird Club
2916 Perry St.
Denver 12, Colo.

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 6 No. 1

Denver, Colorado

September - November 1958

BIRDS OF THE SEASON

by Donald M. Thatcher

November 15, 1958 -- The past summer and fall, although they were excellent for birding and for the birds, themselves, produced relatively few unusual records. The fall migration, following a late spring migration, appears in general to be somewhat later than last year's, which also was retarded.

Here are a few highlights from the following summary of dates and occurrences: Yellow-billed Cuckoo unusually numerous and well-distributed; Chimney Swift apparently on increase; Western Meadowlark greatly increased in numbers; fall migration of Franklin's Gull late, especially at Denver, perhaps due to plentiful supply of grasshoppers farther north; Mountain Chickadee common on plains, where it did not appear last fall and winter; Brown Creeper, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Golden-crowned Kinglet unusually frequent on plains. Most unusual report: Graces Warbler in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Howard Rollin

Contributors: Phyllis Caswell, Ann Condit, Mrs. C.N. Collister, Catherine Cronc, Graco Hardee, Mrs. Marjorie Lett, Thompson Marsh, Sadie Morrison, Mrs Berono Sullivan, Donald Thatcher, Jean White, Boulder Bird Club (BBC), Longmont Bird Club (LBC). Locality abbreviations: BC - Boulder County, on plains north of Boulder; D - Denver and immediate vicinity (plains only); L - Longmont and vicinity (plains); LS - LaSalle (Latham Reservoir); P - Platteville; W - Weldona (Rollin Ranch).

Summer occurrences and nesting:-

Western Grebe - 150 pairs, first young 6/20 LS (ML)
Mourning Dove - last hatching about 9/2 P (ML)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 1 6/26 D (TM); 1 (or pair) all summer at Platteville (ML); nesting pair at Boulder (BS); 1 8/24 BC (CC); 3 9/3 (1 young being fed) L (Mrs. CNC). See also last report, page 60.
Sage Thrasher - some in flock of 17 obviously young, apparently nesting east of Platteville (7/20) (ML).

Latest fall dates - summer resident species:

Snowy Egret - 2 9/1, 4 9/15 BC (CC)
Turkey Vulture - 3 10/1 P (ML)
Swainson's Hawk - 2 10/26 P (ML)
Spotted Sandpiper - 1 10/12 BC (CC)
American Avocet - 1 8/28 last of summer residents, 4 pairs raised 13 young P (ML); 1 10/15 P (ML)
Wilson's Phalarope - 2 9/2 P (ML)
Band-tailed Pigeon - 2 9/1 Evergreen (TM)
Mourning Dove - peak: 64 8/31 BC (CC); last: 1 10/5 BC (CC), 11/8 L (LBC)
Burrowing Owl - 1 11/2 P (ML)
Poor-will - 1 8/31 (dead on road) BC (CC)
Common Nighthawk - 1 10/9 D (JW)
White-throated Swift - 10 10/4 D (Red Rocks) (AC,DT)
Broad-tailed Hummingbird - 2 8/31 BC (CC), 4 9/2 Hesperus (DT)
Eastern Kingbird - 3 9/10 P (ML)
Western Kingbird - 2 9/28 D (SM & others)
Say's Phoebe - 1 9/21 BC (CC), 10/2 W (HR)
Western Flycatcher - 1 8/31 BC (CC)
Western Wood Pewee - peak: 4 8/24, 31 BC (CC); last: 1 9/19 L (Mrs. CNC)

Violet-green Swallow - 115 8/31 BC (CC); 10 9/3 Mosa Verde (DT)
 Bank Swallow - 200-300 7/20-8/7 LS (ML); 1 9/2 L (MrsCNC)
 Barn Swallow - peak; 184 (incl 2 large flocks) 9/15 BC (CC); last: 2 9/29 D (TM)
 Cliff Swallow - 2 8/31 BC (CC)
 Blue Jay - 1 10/9 D (DT)
 Mockingbird - 1 10/20 P (ML)
 Brown Thrasher - 1 9/28-10/5 P (ML)
 Sage Thrasher - peak: 30 9/26, 20 10/12 P (ML); last: 1 10/18 D (Club)
 Robin - peak: 305 10/5 BC (CC); last: flock 25 11/11 D (DT)
 Loggerhead Shrike - 8/31 BC (CC)
 Red-eyed Vireo - 1 9/1 L (MrsCNC)
 Virginia's Warbler - 4 9/14 Wild Basin, Rocky Mtn. Nat. Park (MrsCNC)
 Yellow Warbler - 1 9/7 BC (CC)
 MacGillivray's Warbler - 1 9/7 BC (CC)
 Yellowthroat - 3 8/27 D (TM); peak: 14 9/1, last: 2 9/28 BC (CC)
 American Redstart - 1 male, immature plumage 8/31 BC (CC)
 Yellow-headed Blackbird - 250 9/13 P (ML); 20 9/13 Barr Lake (AC,GH)
 Bullock's Oriole - 2 8/3 P (ML)
 Brewer's Blackbird - peak: 600 10/5, last: flock 500 10/19 BC (CC); first: 6 8/23, peak 75-100 9/28-10/28, 2-3 present 11/9 P (ML)
 Common Grackle - 500 10/17, diminished to 8-10 10/13 (last) D (DT); 1 11/2 BC (CC)
 Brown-headed Cowbird - 31 8/24, 3 8/31 BC (CC)
 Black-headed Grosbeak - 2 9/15 BC (CC)
 Blue Grosbeak - 1 9/7 BC (CC)
 Lazuli Bunting - peak: 29 9/7, last: 2 9/21 BC (CC)
 Lark Bunting - 15 8/28 P (ML)
 Vesper Sparrow - last: 17 10/5 BC (CC)
 Lark Sparrow - last: many 9/1 BC (CC)
 Cassin's Sparrow - 2 10/10 P (ML)
 Chipping Sparrow - first: 3 7/21 P (ML); main migration: 8/24-10/5 BC (CC); last: 2 10/31 P (ML)
 Brewer's Sparrow - first: 3 8/24 P (ML); last: 9/12 W (HR)

First, peak, and last reports for migrant species, including plains dates for several mountain or foothills summer residents and main migration data for some permanent resident species:-

Horned Grebe - 1 8/25 L (MrsCNC); flock 9 10/5 BC (CC)
 Eared Grebe - 2 9/6 D (Club); 1 9/19 L (MrsCNC)
 White Pelican - 3 9/26, 27 L (MrsCNC)
 Osprey - 1 9/18 L (MrsCNC)
 Sparrow Hawk - 51 8/24, peak: 53 9/7, 13 10/5 BC (CC)
 Sandhill Crane - 4 10/1 LS (ML); 10/11 (see Weldona Notes)
 Solitary Sandpiper - 5 8/17 P (ML); 1 9/15 BC (CC)
 Willet - 10 9/13 Barr L. (AC,GH)
 Greater Yellowlegs - 2 8/31, 9/1; 2 10/5 BC (CC)
 Lesser Yellowlegs - 4 8/24 BC (CC); 6 11/8 L (LBC)
 Pectoral Sandpiper - 11 8/31 BC (CC); 6 9/6 D (Club)
 Baird's Sandpiper - 30 9/4 LS (ML); 1 10/28 P (ML)
 Long-billed Dowitcher - 1 9/12 L (MrsCNC); 8 10/17 P (ML)
 Stilt Sandpiper - 2 9/6 D (Club); 1 9/13 Barr L. (AC,GH)
 Western Sandpiper - 8 8/31 BC (CC); 2 9/13 Barr L. (AC,GH)
 Marbled Godwit - 2 9/17 L (MrsCNC)
 Sanderling - 2 9/16 L (MrsCNC)
 Black-necked Stilt - 1 8/25, 9/12 L (MrsCNC)
 Northern Phalarope - 10 8/25, 6 9/16 L (MrsCNC)
 jaeger (species ?) - 1 8/25 L (MrsCNC)
 Franklin's Gull - 30 6/23 (non-breeding summer residents ?), first migrants: 1000 plus 7/20 LS (ML); 5 8/24 BC (CC), 200 8/25 L (MrsCNC), 10/3 Weldona (HR); peaks: flock 500 9/7 BC (CC), 9/21 P (ML); last: 11/8 L (LBC)
 Bonaparte's Gull - 3 9/4 LS (ML)
 Black Tern - 15 7/27 P (ML); 10 9/13 Barr L. (AC,GH)

Rufous Hummingbird - 1 9/22, 23 L (MrsCNC)
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*muchalis*) - 1 11/2 BC (CC)
 House Wren - 1 8/31 D (DT); 1 10/18 Sedalia (Club)
 Long-billed Marsh Wren - 1 10/1 D (TM)
 Hermit Thrush - 1 9/17, 18 L (MrsCNC)
 Swainson's Thrush - 1 8/31 BC (CC)
 Mountain Bluebird - peak: 106 10/5, last: 8 11/2 BC (CC) D (TM)
 Townsend's Solitaire - 1 9/28 (observer's first record at Platteville - ML); 1 10/2
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet - last: 1 10/19 BC (CC)
 Water Pipit - last: 4 10/12 BC (CC)
 Solitary Vireo - 1 (singing) 8/19 D (TM)
 Tennessee Warbler - 8/29 D (TM)
 Orange-crowned Warbler - 1 8/29 D (TM); 3 8/31, peak: 5 9/28, last: 3 10/5 BC (CC)
 Nashville Warbler - 3 9/1 BC (CC)
 Myrtle Warbler - 1 10/2 L (MrsCNC); 1 10/5 D (TM)
 Audubon's Warbler - 1 8/29 D (TM); 7 9/21, peak: 14 10/5 BC (CC); last: 1 11/15 D (DT)
 Townsend's Warbler - 1 8/27 & 29 D, 1 9/1 Evergreen (TM)
 Wilson's Warbler - 3 8/27 D (TM), 1 8/31 BC (CC); last: 2 10/2 L (MrsCNC)
 Western Tanager - first: 1 8/1 D (DT), 2 8/5 D (TM); 1 8/31, peak: 7 9/15 BC (CC);
 last: 1 female 10/5 D (TM)
 Savannah Sparrow - 2 9/12 P (ML), 5 9/21 BC (CC)
 Baird's Sparrow - 2 8/24, 3 8/31 & 9/15 BC (CC)
 Clay-colored Sparrow - 2 8/24 P (ML); last: 10/14 W (HR)
 Lincoln's Sparrow - 1 9/1 BC (CC)

Earliest fall dates - winter resident species, including local mountain species wintering on plains:-

Wood Duck - 1 9/20 D (Bowles Lake) (Club)
 Rough-legged Hawk - 3 10/2 BC (CC)
 Ring-billed Gull - 120 8/24, peak 175 9/28 BC (CC)
 Short-eared Owl - 1 8/31 L (MrsCNC)
 Clark's Nutcracker - 2 9/1 (early for 7200-ft. elevation) Evergreen (TM) (Club)
 Mountain Chickadee - 2 10/6 D (TM); 7 records 10/8 - 11/14 D (DT); 1 10/18 Sedalia
 White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches - 1 each 8/8 D (TM); several other records
 late Aug. to Nov. D (DT)
 Brown Creeper - 1 9/17 L (MrsCNC); 1-2 almost daily, 9/15 to 11/11 D (TM, DT)
 Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1 10/25 D (DT)
 Northern Shrike - 1 10/18 D (Club)
 Evening Grosbeak - first: 8/3 Boulder (BBC); many early Sept., Durango (Oppie Reames)
 White-winged Junco - 1 9/30 P (ML)
 Slate-colored Junco - 1 9/30 P (ML)
 Oregon Junco - 1 9/24 D (TM)
 Gray-headed Junco - 1 9/24 D (TM)
 Tree Sparrow - 2 10/18 D (Club); 51 11/2 BC (CC)
 White-crowned Sparrow - foothills:- 2 8/30 Evergreen (early at 7200 ft.) (TM); plains:-
 45 9/15, peak: 532 10/5, down to 68 11/2 BC (CC)

Irregular species and unusual occurrences:-

Canada Goose - hybrid (much like the one at Bowles Lake, described in Feb. 1956 CBN, p. 47) SW of Denver, at Kendrick Resvr. 8/12 and Robbins Dasher L. 8/15 with flock 50-75 Canada; size of Canada, head white, some white on front & back of brown neck, bill orange. (TM)
 Chimney Swift - 7 Boulder 8/24 (CC) nested.
 Cedar Waxwing - 2 (ad & imm) "First ever seen here. Stayed 2 days feeding on honey-suckle berries" 9/13-14 P (ML); 2 9/19 I (MrsCNC); 1-20 9/27-28, 10/4-5 D (TM); 20 9/28 D (SM); 25 11/11 D (DT)
 Black-throated Gray Warbler - 1 9/1 L (MrsCNC)
 GRACE'S WARBLER - 1 9/12 Wild Basin, Rocky Mountain National Park (MrsCNC)
 Western Meadowlark - 100 plus 9/27, unusually numerous, summer & fall, P (ML); singing 11/15 D (DT)
 Dickcissel - 1 7/20 "Stayed and sang 2 or 3 weeks. Do not believe it nested." P (ML); last: 1 8/31 BC (CC)

WELDONA NOTES

by Howard Rollin

August 23, 1958 -- The summer has been very dry in this immediate vicinity, but heavy rains have occurred just north and south of here. Fort Morgan had three heavy hail storms - June 13, July 13, and August 3 - more than in the entire last 20 years. Precipitation here was 2.10 inches in June, 1.90 in July, and .30 to date in August, much of which came as a few tenths and did very little good. It is two years since we have had a heavy rain of the flood type. The dry summer here benefited the birds in every way, and an unusually large crop of young was produced, while in the areas of heavy rain and hail many adults were killed and nests with eggs or young destroyed. A floral note: not one flower of the scapweed was seen this year.

September 17 -- The drought continued into September. Rainfall in the immediate vicinity for all of August was about .90 inch, and, coming in tenths, was not of much benefit. September to date has had .90 also, in two falls of .4 & .5, a few days apart. Some young birds were noted only a few days ago - Lark Sparrows just on the wing. Mockingbirds feeding young were seen the first week of September - late for that species. Migrants are increasing at the present time.

October 15 -- The past month had a little more than a half-inch of rain and also a couple of freezes, so that the country is a drab, earth color and extremely dry. Unusual here is the almost total lack of wind the past week or so. October is remembered for some of the windiest times; years ago it was not unusual for the wind to blow from the northwest for a solid week without letup. Bird life is about normal, but some species are quite scarce and some others are more common than usual.

The following bring bird activity up-to-date (combined from the 3 above reports):

Ducks - none seen this fall, except 1 Mallard 7/3
Swainson's Hawk - nested, fairly common in summer; last 10/9
Ferruginous Hawk - first 1 9/19; none since
Golden Eagle - occasional (between 9/17 & 10/15)
Marsh Hawk - more frequent than in spring & early summer
Prairie Falcon - first 1 9/17; 1 10/6
Sparrow Hawk - fairly common
Ring-necked Pheasant - a very few in this vicinity; 1 near house 9/10, the first in a year or more (10/11)
Sandhill Crane - first 10/9, unknown number passed at 7:30 PM; 75-100 10/10, 15-20
Killdeer - a few nested in vicinity; last 10/4. (No other shorebirds seen)
Franklin's Gull - late, in contrast with other years; first; thousands circling 10/3-4; a few 10/9.
Mourning Dove - good crop of young; few in late summer; last 10/8
Barn Owl - small young in nest 9/12; signs indicate still here (10/15)
Great Horned Owl - common
Burrowing Owl - 1 8/17, only record
Common Nighthawk - many young; last, 1 9/12
Red-shafted Flicker - first of fall, 1 9/7; few since
Red-headed Woodpecker - 1 imm. 8/18
Downy Woodpecker - 1 9/21, 10/2; very rare here
Eastern Kingbird - a few about all summer; did not nest right here
Western Kingbird - nested here, 4 young on wing (8/23); very common all summer; 1 9/11, 9/22 last
Say's Phoebe - First nesting successful; second destroyed by mites when nearly ready to fly; another pair raised 4 young in the canyons; last, 10/2
Traill's Flycatcher - 1 6/20, 21 (rare)
Great Crested Flycatcher - 1 8/21 (rare) (10/15)
Horned Lark - raised good crop of young, some just on wing (8/23); still very common
Rough-winged Swallow - common; all left by 10/23
Barn Swallow - rare this year; 2 7/3, 8/2, 9/7
Blue Jay - more common than usual; 3 10/1, 1 10/4, 4 10/10; common at Fort Morgan

Black-billed Magpie - raised many young
Common Crow - rare here; 1 6/2, 8/19; 1 remains, 10/15
Black-capped Chickadee - fairly common at Ft. Morgan
White-breasted Nuthatch - 1 7/9 (rare)
House Wren - 1 9/6 seen 10/4
Rock Wren - common, but one of the few species that did not raise many young; last
Mockingbird - increased after 6/9; nested commonly in canyons and here about buildings;
last young just on wing 8/23; last, 9/7
Brown Thrasher - commonest ever here; nested in canyons and brought young up to the
buildings; about 20 7/16, decreased to 3 or 4 (10/23); a few present 9/17
Sage Thrasher - common late summer; nested close by and numerous young about; fed on
swarming hervester ants; unusually common this fall; along the roads everywhere,
some near Ft. Morgan but most numerous out in the country; last, 10/10
The Mockingbird, Brown and Sage Thrashers, and Loggerhead Shrike kept the grass-
hoppers cleaned out here about the buildings, while a short distance away the
grasshoppers are very numerous.
Robin - 2 7/4; especially unusual at that time; more numerous than usual at ranch in
fall, still present 10/5; less common than usual at Ft. Morgan this summer.
Mountain Bluebird - first, 2 9/23, 24; not common this fall, few to 10/15
Townsend's Solitaire - 1 9/19, 22; none later
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 1 9/12 (very rare here)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1 7/9 (very unusual date); 1 9/15, 16, 22 (rare)
Loggerhead Shrike - very common in Aug., few later; nested in canyons; last seen 10/10
Starling - none all summer until 3 9/7, frequent later; most seen 47 9/19
Yellow Warbler - 1 8/28
Myrtle Warbler - 1 8/27, occasional later; 1 9/28, 10/3
Audubon's Warbler - 1 9/27
Yellowthroat - 1 10/3 (very rare)
Wilson's Warbler - 1 8/27; a few to 9/17
House Sparrow - first this fall, 2 9/12, 17; a few come and go (10/15)
Western Meadowlark - many young; numerous this fall; singing frequently 9/19, 10/1
Yellow-headed Blackbird - 1 8/11, 24
Red-winged Blackbird - scarce; 2 7/29; 1 9/20; most, 10-12 10/7
Bullock's Oriole - did not nest at ranch; last, 9/7
Brewer's Blackbird - 1 7/17, 6 8/31; common 9/14; small numbers thru 10/15
Brown-headed Cowbird - uncommon this summer; 3-4 young seen; 1 8/23; last, 10/10
Blue Grosbeak - very late this year; 1st, 2 7/7, 14; 1 near Ft. Morgan 7/15
American Goldfinch - 1 7/19, 27; more common this fall than in several years; more
numerous south of here
Lesser Goldfinch - 1 9/14
Rufous-sided Towhee - 1 10/13, present 10/15
Lark Bunting - many young; early nestings successful and flocks forming 6/30 (early);
fairly common to 9/5; last, 9/13
Vesper Sparrow - 1st, 1 9/2; last, 9/20; fairly common
Lark Sparrow - less common than usual, but good crop of young; some just on wing 8/23;
feeding 2 young Cowbirds 8/23; last, 9/20
White-winged Junco - first, 1 10/24
Slate-colored Junco - first, 1 10/7, 8; present 10/15
Oregon Junco - 2 9/17, 19; present 10/15
Clay-colored Sparrow - first, 10 8/6, 17; last 10/14
Brewer's Sparrow - good crop young; most left by 8/23; last 9/12
Field Sparrow - 1 10/24 (rare)
White-crowned Sparrow - 1st, 3 9/15, 16; common thru 10/15
White-throated Sparrow - 1 9/22-24 (very rare here)
Song Sparrow - 1 9/30
McCown's Longspur - 1st, 3 9/3, 6; few until increase, 9/19; very common 9/30; a few
still present 10/15

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

The committee was appointed at the September meeting of the Colorado Bird Club in response to a motion by Lois Webster that an investigation be made to determine what the Club could do to encourage the study of birds in particular and of wildlife in general by children.

This report is divided into three sections: One section deals with the possibility of the Bird Club's sponsoring a Junior Bird Club; the second deals with participation by the Bird Club in activities of other youth groups; and the third consists of findings made on related problems.

Under the first section, we found that a Junior Bird Club would require the holding of regular meetings, probably two or more a month, would require a lot of organization, and would also involve questions of a legal and financial nature. The committee feels that, unless one or more Club members are willing to take on such a project, it would be advisable to postpone such an undertaking for the present. We feel this is particularly true in the light of the considerable amount of such work already being done by various Club members as requested by other organizations.

The second section produced a lot of information and some requests for action, and set in motion some activity.

The YMCA has informed us that they would like to have the Club take on one of their groups, which meets every Saturday. In view of our findings under section one, we have made no commitment for the Club.

The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are both definitely interested in the possibility of help from the Club. The Boy Scouts have already enlisted help from the Club for their merit badge program. Both groups are interested in Club members acting as guest leaders on Scout trips and in the possibility of having training trips for Scout leaders.

The committee wrote Audubon Junior Clubs for information and advice on programs for children. We received a very helpful letter and a sample kit of the Audubon Junior Club material in reply. Most of you are familiar with this material, which covers birds and general wildlife and conservation activities.

We contacted the Denver Public Schools, and George Mathes, Director of Special Activities, is now corresponding directly with Audubon Junior Clubs on a campaign to mail information on the clubs to all teachers of grades 3 through 6 in Denver. So far we have no way of knowing how many teachers will take advantage of this activity.

We also wrote to the State Department of Education, but so far have heard nothing from them.

The committee contacted Leonard Dieckman at Regis College and he recommended the distribution of all available information to the parochial schools and at their teachers' conventions.

The president of the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs has requested that information on Audubon Junior Clubs be sent them, also lists of speakers for garden club programs and of who could lead bird walks. They are particularly interested in any material relating to conservation of wildlife, the setting up of wildlife areas and refuges, and protective plantings, cover crops and food supplies.

The third section covers some rather interesting findings:

One is the difficulty of getting teachers on the job to read material sent to

them, especially if the material deals with an unfamiliar subject. A suggested remedy for this problem in the future is to supply such information to the education departments at the colleges with a request that the material be presented in the appropriate courses. If this is done, the teachers would receive a broader training on birds and other conservation and nature subjects, and also would become familiar with the material currently available on those subjects. Then, when new bulletins and pamphlets come through the mails, it is hoped that the teachers will be more inclined to read and use these materials.

Another problem is the lack of readily available material designed for use in this area. Too often the material on the market is designed for conditions in the East and to obtain information on local conditions requires a special effort. A suggested remedy for this problem is the preparation of a bibliography listing books, pamphlets, movies, etc. dealing specifically with this area. Such a list would be even more useful accompanied by a brief discussion of the life zones of the Rocky Mountain area and if it included material on the trees, flowers, insects, reptiles, mammals, geology, and water and conservation problems of this area.

Having come this far in our work, we must now have further directions from the members of the Club. Will all members please give careful consideration to the following questions and recommendations and be prepared to discuss and vote on them at a special meeting of the Colorado Bird Club to be held Friday, December 5, 1958, at 8 PM, at the Bird Room of the Denver Museum of Natural History? Any suggestions as to other groups to be contacted or other sources of information to be investigated will be appreciated.

1. Should the Bird Club now sponsor a Junior Bird Club?
2. Should the Bird Club accept or decline the request from the YMCA to lead one of their youth groups?
3. Should the Bird Club officially approach the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts with an offer to do one or more of the following:
 - a. Supply guest leaders for official Scout trips?
 - b. Invite all interested Scouts and Scout leaders to come on regular Bird Club trips?
 - c. Supply leaders for special trips to train Scout leaders and senior Scouts?
 - d. Supply leaders for special trips to train Scout leaders only?
4. Should the Bird Club contact other youth groups on the same basis? on a different basis? What other groups?
5. Should the Bird Club continue to urge other groups, such as schools, Brownies, Cub Scouts, Junior Garden Clubs, to add Junior Audubon Club activities to their regular programs?
6. Should the Bird Club officially ask the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs to request the member garden clubs to sponsor Audubon Junior Clubs either as part of their Junior Garden Club programs or as a separate activity?
7. Should the Bird Club send material on birds directly to the Education departments of the colleges for use in the training of teachers?
8. Should the Bird Club prepare a bibliography and list of visual aids to be used by teachers, youth leaders, garden clubs, libraries, and other interested persons?
 - a. Should it be limited to birds only?
 - b. Should it include a brief statement on life zones?
 - c. Should it include other nature and conservation fields?
 - d. Should it include also a list of hobby and study clubs interested in those fields?
 - e. If a large printing is to be run of the bibliography, should the Club
 - i. Distribute it free of charge?
 - ii. Charge a price sufficient to cover printing costs?
 - iii. Charge a price sufficient to return a profit?
 - iv. Permit other groups to reproduce and distribute it at their expense, provided acknowledgment is given to the Bird Club?

If there are any Club members who will be unable to attend the special meeting but who wish to comment on the above questions, will they please send their comments to Miss Ann Condit, Apt. 5, 3235 Clay St., Denver 11, Colo.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Condit, Chairman

John Chapin, Hazel Thatcher and Lois Webster, members.

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* The members and friends of the Colorado Bird Club are cordially invited *
* to the president's Open House at the home of Donald and Hazel Thatcher, at *
* 2916 Perry Street, Denver, between four and seven in the evening, Sunday, *
* November 30, 1958. *

THIS IS YOUR INVITATION

* * * * *

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1958

November -

25 (Tues.) 8 PM Regular Meeting. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service movie,
"The Whooping Crane". Bird Room, Denver Museum of Natural
History (Please use north, employees', entrance)
30 (Sun.) 4-7 PM President's Open House. (See invitation above)

December

5 (Fri.) 8 PM Special meeting. See pages 6 & 7, and please come !!
20 (Sat.) Christmas Count - plains and foothills
27 (Sat.) Christmas Count - mountains

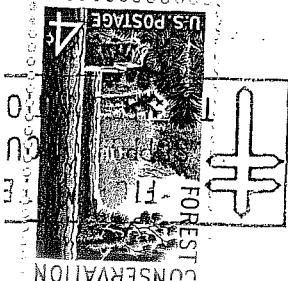
No field trips scheduled for December. Weekends to be used for scouting for
Christmas Counts. Count details to follow. December regular meeting cancelled.

1st class

DENVER 11, COLO.

3340 W. 37th AVE.

MISS RUTH WHEELER



Colorado Bird Club
2916 Perry St.
Denver 12, Colo.

COLORADO BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Colorado Bird Club

Vol. 6 No. 2

Denver, Colorado

December 1958 - February 1959

1958 COLORADO CHRISTMAS COUNTS

by John L. Chapin

The 1958 Colorado Christmas Counts showed some species of birds to be much more and others much less common than usual. In general, water birds seemed to be about average in both numbers and variety. The Scrub Jay was more numerous at the places where it normally occurs. The White-winged Junco also seemed to be easier to find; I cannot remember a Colorado Christmas Count which came close to the 126 of that species found this year in the Black Forest area. On the other hand, the mountain cone crops and perhaps other seed crops were poor, resulting in poor counts of such birds as crossbills, grosbeaks, siskin, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Townsend's Solitaire, Clark's Nutcracker and Gray-headed Junco appear to be fewer than usual, and the Northern Shrike may be near the low of its cycle. A few unusual species were recorded, including Mockingbird at Loveland, Myrtle Warbler at Longmont, Yellow-headed Blackbird at Colorado Springs, and Common Grackle at Longmont and at a feeder in the mountains at Georgetown. Robin and Evening Grosbeak seemed scarce at Count time and the Bohemian Waxwing was not impressively numerous; however, since New Year's these three, especially the waxwing, have appeared in greater numbers. The pattern of Robin populations through our winters should provide an interesting study for someone looking for an ornithological project.

On the following pages are tabulations of the nine counts reported to us. Localities and participants:- BLACK FOREST - 6800-7700 feet elevation; ponderosa pine forest, grassland, ranchland; Larry Field, Hugh Kingery, George Sinton. COLORADO SPRINGS - high plains, foothills; Mrs. T. L. Adams, Mr. & Mrs. Jay Berry, Robert Z. Brown, Dennis Carter, Mrs. Kenneth Ewing, Mrs. L. B. Field, Larry Field, Donald Galvin, Mary Alice Hamilton, Marjorie Leavens, Mrs. Noble Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Nesbit, Mrs. William Noble, Mrs. Frank Sample, Mary Shirer, Mahlon Speers, Robert M. Stabler, Helen B. Thurlow, James H. Turner, Mr. & Mrs. H. J. Weberbauer, Mrs. A. D. Williams. DURANGO - 6500-7000 ft., oak, pinon pine, sage, farmland; Nancy, Paul, Sandra & Thomas J. Frizell, Oppie Reames. FORT COLLINS - high plains, foothills; John & Margaret Douglass, Jack B. Lozier, Ronald & Audrey Ryder. IDAHO SPRINGS - 7500-11,300 ft., mountains; Vernon Betts, Joseph & Marion Borden, Dennis Carter, John Chapin, Kenneth Lane, Thompson Marsh, Donald Thatcher. JEFFERSON COUNTY - 5300-7500 ft., high plains, foothills; Dennis Carter, Phyllis Caswell, John Chapin, Ann Condit, Catherine Crone, Leonard Dieckman, Ferd Kleinschmitz, Thompson & Nancy Marsh, Edwin D. McKee, Sadie Morrison, Gwendolyn Smith, Donald Thatcher, Lois Webster, Parnell & Jean White. BERTHOUD-LONGMONT - 5000-5500 ft., high plains; Jay Arnold, Mrs. Carl Collister, Harold Dunning, Mrs. Fred Fox, Mrs. Arthur Smith, Mrs. Nina Stultz, Mrs. Merle Thielen. LOVELAND - 5000-7000 ft., foothills, high plains; John & Margaret Douglass. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK - 7500-10,800 ft., mountains; Wayne W. Bryant, John & Margaret Douglass, Jack B. Lozier, Ronald Ryder.

Species	Black Colo.	Dur-	Fort	Idaho	Jeff.	Berthd	Love-	Rky. Mtn
	Forest	Spgs.	ango	Coll.	Spgs.	Co.	Longmt	land
								Net. Prk.
Common Loon	1						1	
Horned Grebe					2			
Pied-billed Grebe					2		1	
Western Grebe					1			
Great Blue Heron	2				3	6	2	
Canada Goose	1		40		361	11		
Snow Goose					1	2		
Mallard	401	19	1339		458	53,250	6617	11
Gadwall	3				84			
Pintail					66	7		
Green-winged Teal	31				96	14	1006	
Blue-winged Teal		5						
American Widgeon	17		2		40			
Shoveler	12				12	5		
Redhead	20				25			
Ring-necked Duck					28			
Canvasback	1	2			11			
Lesser Scaup	200							
Common Goldeneye		19			60	8	22	126
Barrow's Goldeneye								1
Bufflehead					8			1
Ruddy Duck					2			
Hooded Merganser					4			
Common Merganser	3	10	80		500	20	8	1
Goshawk	1						1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	1						
Cooper's Hawk	2				3			
Red-tailed Hawk	10	1	5		9	10	1	
Rough-legged Hawk	6		10		2	4		
Butte (unid.)					3			
Golden Eagle	1	9	1		4	3		
Bald Eagle			5		1	3		
Marsh Hawk	16	31	4	9	10	6	1	
Prairie Falcon		2		1	2			
Percepsine Falcon				1				
Pigeon Hawk						2		
Sparrow Hawk	2	20	4	7	25	10	2	
Blue Grouse					1			
White-tailed Ptarmigan					2			
Scaled Quail		91						
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	31	2	92	27	62	4	
American Coot		300			48	9		
Killdeer	1	31		11	30	21	3	
Common Snipe		28		3	16	64	1	
Herring Gull		2		4	18	11	1	
Ring-billed Gull			100		204	1	1	
Mourning Dove					5	29		
Great Horned Owl				2	2	4		
Long-eared Owl					2	9		
Short-eared Owl	5			1				
Belted Kingfisher			1	1	8	7	4	
Red-shafted Flicker	7	103	17	73	93	150	21	
Lewis' Woodpecker		3	3			9		

Species	Black Forest	Colo. Spgs.	Dur-ango	Fort Coll.	Idaho Spgs.	Jeff. Co.	Berthd Longmt	Love-land	Rky.Mtn. Nat.Frk.
Hairy Woodpecker	9	10		1		1	5		
Downy Woodpecker	5	13		4		13	18	4	1
Northern 3-toed Woodpecker					3				
Horned Lark	41	57	15	4		33		15	
Gray Jay					20				5
Blue Jay		1		3			16		
Steller's Jay	7	172	1	17	50	50	11	15	21
Scrub Jay		102	1	1		41			
Black-billed Magpie	122	702	115	134	24	443	185	62	20
Common Raven		1	16		10			2	1
Common Crow	4	285		168		242	10,138		
Pinon Jay		176							
Clark's Nutcracker		2		1	11				1
Black-capped Chickadee	2	38	8	19	4	94	43	18	3
Mountain Chickadee	25	47		32	57	128	17	10	11
Common Bushtit		14							
White-breasted Nuthatch	8	16	1	2	1	12		1	
Red-breasted Nuthatch									4
Pigmy Nuthatch	143	52		1		90			24
Brown Creeper	5	3		10	1	8	3	2	2
Dipper		1	9	8	5	6	1	26	18
Long-billed Marsh Wren						3	1		
Canyon Wren	1	1		10		18		6	
Rock Wren		1							
Mockingbird								1	
Robin	4	31	5		2	15	4		
Townsend's Solitaire	1	26		5	21	16	1	2	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	14					7			
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		4						1	
Water Pipit				1					
Bohemian Waxwing		100	210		25				
Cedar Waxwing		64			20				
Northern Shrike	3	2		3		2	5	4	1
Loggerhead Shrike			1						
Starling	6	63	198	2265		244	650	108	
Myrtle Warbler							1		
House Sparrow	65	991	80	459	47	272	470	340	
Western Meadowlark	1	244	62	282		135	350	72	
Yellow-headed Blackbird		1							
Redwinged Blackbird		207	25	2		1680	2580	4	
Brewer's Blackbird		130	10			619			
unid. blackbirds		20							
Common Grackle					1		4		
Evening Grosbeak			8			2		1	
Cassin's Finch						11		5	
House Finch	3			5		141	55	4	
Pine Grosbeak					2				
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch						54			250
Black Rosy Finch						2			1
Brown-capped Rosy Finch						25			10
unid. rosy finches						85			
Pine Siskin	15	47		75		4	28		
American Goldfinch	25	20		3		55	20	1	

Species	Black Forest	Colo. Spgs.	Dur-ango	Fort Coll.	Idaho Spgs.	Jeff. Co.	Berthd Longmt	Love-land	Rky. Mtn. Nat.Prk.
Rufous-sided Towhee		21	3			25			
Brown Towhee		6							
White-winged Junco	126	28		2	2	28	1	21	2
Slate-colored Junco	5	12		5	4	38	11	1	10
Oregon Junco	85	877	846	208	12	508	260	193	29
Gray-hooded Junco	25	227	18	4	3	75	16	9	5
unid. juncos		114				31			
Tree Sparrow	12	146		148		674	35	55	
White-crowned Sparrow		82	6	42		52	74	3	
White-throated Sparrow		2					1		
Song Sparrow	1	39		30		83	37	6	1
Total species (114)	35	72	36	53	24	79	59	48	26
Date (December)	27	28	29*	21*	27	20	22	22	28
No. observers	3	26	5	5	8	16	7	2	5
No. parties	1	11	1	2	4	6	4?	1	2
Party hours	8½	62	8½	18	34	53	36	10	15

* * * * *

Analysis of the recent counts made by this Club at Denver - Jefferson County (9 counts) and Idaho Springs (8 counts) furnishes an idea of the complete list of the birds that might be found in winter in this vicinity and suggests the possibility of much larger lists if more thorough coverage of the count areas is made. In 1950, the Denver count included most of the city, to include City Park, but as the park yielded only one species not found elsewhere, of a total of 59 species, the count was moved westward the next year to cover more foothill territory. Three counts (1951, 2, 3) in this new area, centered near Green Mountain, west of Denver, found 67, 86, and 85 species, an average of 79. It was next decided to move southward about seven miles, to include more of the South Platte valley, with its high potential for unusual species. This new area during the 5 years 1954 to 1958 showed no gain over 1952 and 1953 in the yearly species count (79 to 86, averaging 82) but probably turned up a few that would not have occurred in the former location. However, only 76 party hours average field time per count were necessary to find 82 species in the newer area, compared with 88 hours average time to obtain the 79 species average during 1951-1953. The nine counts of the Denver - Jefferson County area have found a total of 127 species. Of these 127, 44 species occurred in all 9 counts, 10 in 8, 6 in 7, 7 in 6, 7 in 5, 10 in 4, 10 in 3, 6 in 2 and 27 in 1. Those occurring in only one count, while least in importance, but many of greatest interest, are: 1950, California Gull; 1951, Brown Thrasher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet; 1952, Turkey Vulture, Ferruginous Hawk, Pygmy Owl, Gray Jay, Lesser Goldfinch; 1953, Pine Grosbeak; 1954, Peregrine Falcon, Glaucous Gull, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln Sparrow; 1955, Bald Eagle, Mockingbird; 1956, Red-throated Loon, Common Bushtit, Bohemian Waxwing; 1957, Vermilion Flycatcher, Blue Jay, Myrtle Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Chestnut-collared Longspur; 1958, Western Grebe, Snow Goose, Blue Grouse. The following occurred on only two counts: Horned Grebe, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Clark's Nutcracker, Water Pipit, and Black and Brown-capped Rosy Finches.

The Idaho Springs count, in 8 years, tallied 15 to 34 species each year for an average of 27 and an 8-year total of 48. All but 1951 (with 15) had at least 24 species, the seven years 1952-1958 averaging 29 each. Of the 48 species, 10 occurred

(Continued bottom page 16)

BIRDS OF THE SEASON

by Donald M. Thatcher

February 15, 1959 - Sensational bird occurrences have been relatively few during the past three months, as they were during the preceding summer and early fall. Several, however, are worthy of special mention.

Probably the most unusual occurrence is that of a SPOTTED OWL, captured at Lakewood about January 5 and given to Dr. A. M. Bailey, of the Museum. This is a bird of the Southwest which has occurred north to Colorado Springs. This species and the eastern Barred Owl are similar and should be carefully examined; we have had two or three sight records of the latter in recent years, but there is no unquestionable record of it for Colorado.

Almost as infrequent is the immature ROSS' GOOSE at the duck pond in City Park, Denver, reported February 11 by Dr. Bailey, and still there today, where it can be compared easily with the resident Snow Geese and, for size, the Mallards. This little goose averages only about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches longer (23-25 inches) and 3 to 5 ounces heavier than a Mallard of the same sex. It breeds in northeastern Mackenzie and winters in California. There seem to be only 3 or 4 previous Colorado records.

The outstanding small bird occurrence for this region is the flight of the Bohemian Waxwing, of which we have innumerable reports of singles to 400-500, mostly from Denver, also from Durango, Colorado Springs, Platteville, Longmont, Berthoud and Georgetown. This invasion seems to be much greater than that of 1956-7, which was the first general flight in eight years or more. The birds are reported as feeding on Russian Olive, dried apples and crabapples (on the tree), juniper berries, high bush cranberries and apparently a scale insect on twigs of elm trees.

A report has been received from Mrs. Patricia Snider, an experienced observer of Los Alamos, New Mexico, of a heron seen October 3, 1958 at a pond near Loveland, which she believes to be a LOUISIANA HERON, a species apparently never before recorded in Colorado. (The A. O. U. Check-list notes it as casual in southern Nebraska.) Mrs. Snider describes the bird as having "clear-cut white belly and dark back and neck, no mottled effect on back and neck as occurs in the 'calico' Little Blue Heron", also slimmer, especially the neck, and somewhat larger than the Little Blue.

A number of more or less regular winter species have been reported more frequently than usual. These include:

- Bald Eagle - 6 reports 12/15 to 1/9; most, 5 12/29 Durango (OR, Count) others Morrison, Idaho Springs, Colorado Springs, and Longmont.
- Mourning Dove - 12 reports 11/19 to 1/17; most, 29 12/22 Longmont (Count); others Brighton, Gilcrest, Platteville, Denver, Boulder.
- Belted Kingfisher - 8 reports, 11/16-1/17; most, 7 12/22 Longmont (Count); others Platteville, Durango, Boulder, Morrison, Barr Lake, Georgetown.
- Cedar Waxwing - 7 reports 10/31 to 1/23; 1 to 33 individuals at Denver, (T. Marsh); also Longmont, Georgetown, and 64 at Colorado Springs (Count)
- Northern Shrike - many reports of 1-3, from Colorado Springs to Platteville, 11/16 to 1/25
- Brewer's Blackbird - 12/4 to 1/25 10 to 130; most, 130 Colorado Springs 12/28; others Durango, Platteville, Denver, Longmont.
- Evening Grosbeak - 11 reports of 1-10, 12/17 to 2/14 - Durango, Longmont, Denver,
- Rosy Finches - mixed flocks of up to 500 near Morrison, since 12/15 (DC); 150 1/25 Allenspark (MT)
- White-throated Sparrow - 3 reports of 1 to 4, late December and January; Longmont, Colorado Springs, Wheatridge

The Pine Siskin has been unusually scarce, also Cassin's Finch, and there have been no Red Crossbills, except one report from near Boulder, on a Christmas Count. The same group reports also seeing WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS and a RED-BELLIED WOOD-PECKER.

The Whites have reported seeing 1 or 2 Short-billed Marsh Wrens near Golden, 11/9, 14, 29 and near Littleton 12/21, but these have not been identified with certainty. They were in cattails, not the usual habitat of that species, but of the Long-billed Marsh Wren some of which were seen at the same places. There is only one Colorado specimen of the Short-billed, from the San Luis Valley.

un-
Following are additional reports of the less/usual species and some dates. Included are several reports contained also in the Christmas Count summary, and indicated "Count".

Contributors (including those of the above reports): Jay Arnel, Mrs. Inez Baker, Mrs. Claude Burt, Dennis Carter, Mrs. A. Collister, Catherine Crone, John & Margaret Douglass, John Flavin, Mrs. Fred Fox, Hugh Kingery, Mrs. M. Lett, Mrs. E. McCutcheon, Mrs. H. W. McNaab, Thompson Marsh, R. J. Niedrach, Oppie Reames, Ronald Ryder, Gwendolyn Smith, Donald Thatcher, Mrs. Merle Thielen, Oakleigh Thorne, Owen Tytegraff, Parnell & Jean White, Aiken Ornithological Society, Longmont Bird Club.

Common Loon - 1 11/13 Longmont (AC, IB, MrsFF); 1 12/22 Loveland (J&MD); 1 12/28 Colorado Springs (Count)

Snow Goose - 1 12/22 Longmont (Count); 1 1/25 Bowles Lake (Club)

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE - 1 male seen 6 occasions 11/28-12/31 Estes Park (J&MD)

Hooded Merganser - 1 12/5 Longmont (AC); 4 12/21 Bowles Lake (Count); 2 1/25 Bowles Lake (Club)

DUNLIN - 2 12/30 Longmont (AC)

Least Sandpiper - 7 10/15 Boulder (OTH)

American Avocet - 12 11/13 Longmont (AC, IB, MrsFF)

California Gull - 90 11/14 Longmont (AC)

Road-runner - 1 first half of November thru the middle of January (quite tame, perhaps an escaped pet) reported to P&JW, SE Denver

Burrowing Owl - 1 11/14 Haxtun (Phillips Co); 1 12/30 Weld Co, near Campion (RR)

Short-eared Owl - 1 12/10 LaSalle (ML, CC)

Lewis' Woodpecker - 1 12/10 Platteville (ML, CC) (the first seen there in several yrs.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - (S.v. varius) 1 female 12/29 NW Denver (DT)

(S.v. nuchalis) 1 (not positively identified) about 12/20 at Fort Morgan. Description suggests a possible female hybrid with Williamson's Sapsucker: "Larger than a Downy, dark and rather brown-gray, breast lightly washed with rusty. Dark red spot on front of head. Call like cat mew". (The voice should be diagnostic of a sapsucker.) (EMcC)

Rock Wren - 1 12/28 Colo Spgs (Count)

Robin - Several, Platteville and many, Greeley 1/26 (ML). A few reports of 1-20 at Denver, Jan. & Feb.

Loggerhead Shrike - 1 12/29 Durango (Count)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1 11/14, 2 11/29 near Golden, plains (P&JW, TM); 1 12/22 Loveland (J&MD); 4 12/28 Colo Spgs (Count)

Orange-crowned Warbler - 1 2/1 found alive in snow at Denver and brought to Leonard Licht.

Myrtle Warbler - 1 10/26 Denver (TM); 1 at feeder through Dec. & Jan.; Longmont (IB)

Audubon's Warbler - 4 10/26 Denver (TM)

Yellow-headed Blackbird - 1 12/28 Colo Spgs (Count)

Common Grackle - 2 11/16 near Boulder (CC); 4-6 Dec. & Jan. Longmont (LBC); 1 12/28 GEORGETOWN (Count)

Brown-headed Cowbird - 1 1/13 Littleton, with flock of Redwinged Blackbirds (RJN)

Green-tailed Towhee - 12/22 Black Forest, near Colo. Spgs. (HK)

Lesser Goldfinch - 1 11/9 Denver (TM); 1 in bright plumage 1/30 Longmont (AC)

Common Redpoll - flock 20 late Jan. in Denver (OTy); 7 2/3 Platteville (ML)
Cassin's Finch - 2 11/17 Boulder (OTh)
White-winged Junco - seen 11 of 31 days (10/20-11/20) SE Denver (TM)
Harris' Sparrow - 2 immatures 1/10 Barr Lake (Club)

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WELDONA NOTES
by Howard Rollin

November 16, 1958 - The weather the past month was very pleasant, unseasonably war and with very little moisture - just enough to settle the dust. However, it is snowing today and we hope for a generous amount. Bird life and movement have been most skimpy and there is little of special interest to report except one or two rare visitors.

December 22, 1958 - Bird life is at more or less of a standstill. All hawks are scarce, including the Golden Eagle, whose usual food, rabbits, is scarce also. The Horned Lark is the commonest bird, accompanied by a few Lapland Longspurs. Both were numerous about the yard lights in the heavy snow of December 12; they are commonly scattered in the old fields and pastures, but gather in more suitable feeding places when storms come. The Western Meadowlark is wintering in fair numbers. All the birds here seem to benefit from the mostly pleasant weather. Mrs. McCutcheon, at Fort Morgan, reports an unusual sapsucker (see Birds of Season), also Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch and numerous Mountain and Black-capped Chickadees, Blue Jays and Starlings.

January 16, 1959 - The unusually cold weather - minus 18 degrees here and as much as minus 30 degrees a few miles away - has kept bird movement at a minimum. Only the Tree Sparrow and the Horned Lark have been at all common. A Horned Lark singing January 13 is the only sign that spring may be on the way. One Western Meadowlark has been about all fall, and now a second has appeared; it is common a few miles from here.

The following notes summarize observations to date (combined for the 3 reports):

Canada Goose - common farther south; small numbers pass near here (Dec.) (No other water birds seen this fall.)
Swainson's Hawk - last 1 10/31
Rough-legged Hawk - very few
Ferruginous Hawk - none since 9/19
Golden Eagle - scarce
Prairie Falcon - 1 1/5
Sparrow Hawk - few (none Jan.)
Ring-necked Pheasant - more common than in several years (Nov.) absent, but a few farther south (Jan.)
Franklin's Gull - 1 11/11 (late); 1 11/20 near Fort Morgan
Great Horned Owl - common
Horned Lark - very numerous this year
Blue Jay - common in and near Fort Morgan
PINON JAY - 2 10/18, a rare visitor
Black-billed Magpie - common
Common Crow - 1-2 occasionally (Nov.)
Rock Wren - last, 1 10/29
Sage Thrasher - last, 4 10/17
Robin - 2 10/18, 1 10/22, 24 (last); more common than usual
Mountain Bluebird - last 10/24; very few this year
Townsend's Solitaire - last, 1 10/17; only 3 seen this fall
Northern Shrike - first 1 10/25, 26; absent 12/11 to 7/1; now seen almost daily (Jan)
Loggerhead Shrike - last 10/24
Starling - scarce here, fewer than usual elsewhere

House Sparrow - 3 or 4 present (Nov.), irregular (Dec.-Jan.), none 1/16
Redwinged Blackbird - occasional through Dec.
Brewer's Blackbird - a few present until 11/13; last 12/4
House Finch - 1 11/3, 7 & 12/20; rare here, especially so late
Gray-crowned Rosy Finch (Hepburn's) - 1 11/6, 13 & 12/9-12 (former records Nov. '41, 11/1/48, 1/9/49, 1/1/50, 11/1/50)
Pine Siskin - 1 11/20 (very rare here)
American Goldfinch - frequent throughout fall; last 11/29
Rufous-sided Towhee - present 10/13-22
White-winged Junco - 1 or 2 present - the only junco wintering (1/16)
Oregon Junco - very few; last 11/22
Tree Sparrow - first 6 10/19, 22; increasing 10/25, common through 1/16
White-crowned Sparrow - present to 10/27
Lapland Longspur - first 3 10/19, 22; in variable numbers with Horned Larks (through 1/16)

* * * *

Note Accompanying Durango Christmas Count (December 29)

The presence of the Bohemian Waxwing is unusual. It is the first record of this species that I have for this area. Two flocks were observed, one numbering 135 and the other 75. They were present on the northern fringe of our count area within the city limits of Durango and were feeding on frozen apples hanging on trees. We were careful to make positive identification of this species by close observation. General weather conditions were stormy for this period, after a mild and dry period of nearly four weeks. December 28 was stormy with 2 to 3 inches of snow falling. December 29 was partly cloudy during the morning with light snow falling by 1:00 o'clock and becoming increasing heavy during the afternoon. At 4:00 o'clock when we stopped the count visibility was very bad.

Of the 5 bald eagles, 4 were in adult plumage and the fifth appeared to be verging on adult plumage. This bird was quite mottled on the tail and head with extensive areas of white showing.

You will note the low count on Gray-headed Juncos. My observation has been that this species is fewer in numbers in December, January and the first part of February. They returned to Durango and vicinity this year September 25 but were few in number until October 5, when flocks of 75 to 100 were common just about everywhere. However, the Oregon Juncos did not come in any large flocks until October 31. Fewer Gray-headed Juncos were seen after November 30. I consider the September 25 arrival date of the Gray-headed a week to 10 days later than the average date. On September 29 I was fortunate enough to examine a Gray-headed which had knocked itself out by striking a window. This bird had a dusting of rust on the crown, and my observation has been that quite a number of this species have this touch of rust on the crown.

---Oppie Reames

(Continued from page 12) in all 8 counts, 5 in 7, 3 in 6, 7 in 5, 4 in 4, 5 in 3, 4 in 2, and 10 in 1. Those recorded on only one count are: 1951, none; 1952, Tree Sparrow; 1953, Goshawk; 1954, Blue Grouse; 1955, Evening Grosbeak; 1956, Pygmy Owl; 1957, Belted Kingfisher, Common Redpoll; 1958, Bald Eagle, Cedar Waxwing, Common Grackle. Those found on only two counts are: White-tailed Ptarmigan, Canyon Wren, Northern Shrike, and White-throated Sparrow.

The counts for the two areas total 131 species. White-tailed Ptarmigan, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Common Grackle and Common Redpoll are the four species counted only on the upper area. While the exclusive occurrence there of the first two is normal and to be expected, that of the grackle is certainly a reversal of what might be anticipated, and the redpoll is probably as likely to occur on the plains as in the mountains.

--D. M. Thatcher

Notes From Eastern Texas

It has been over ten fleeting months since we settled in east Texas at Nacogdoches. We like this wooded area where pines compete with oaks in the uplands and oaks and gums grow tall in the riverbottoms. Longleaf pines once reigned in some deep sandy places but they were logged out years ago and shortleafs and "scrub" oaks have inherited the terrain. Woods alternate with pastures and forage sorghum fields. Watermelon patches, farm ponds and poultry factories are common. There is plenty of brushy edge here but livestock are ubiquitous and I imagine grazing, browsing, and rooting have wiped out much original plant life. Also, pine foresters are finding more efficient means of removing hardwoods. Now you have a brief birdman's-eye view of the local scene, so I shall give you the birding highlights of the past months.

We spent the first three days after our arrival at a motel. In between house-hunting and eating, we enjoyed seeing again such birds as cardinals, mockers, Carolina wrens, pine warblers, field sparrows, and black vultures. That spring, I saw a lot of Kentucky warblers, a species new to me. Blue grosbeaks, rare in my experience, were common, and scissor-tailed flycatchers were regularly seen. June 22, as we were watching over 75 little blue herons in a plowed field, one yellow-crowned night heron was sighted, another new bird. One June morning I saw a loggerhead shrike cough up a pellet while perched in a crepe myrtle in our yard. The pellet was composed of dark, hard insect matter. A wood thrush sang in the woods across the street during April but ceased suddenly. This was disappointing, as others sang elsewhere throughout the spring. Fledgling mockers and other birds were commonly seen during spring and summer despite the five cats next door.

Birding was uninspiring through the midsummer heat. In fact, our most enjoyable two weeks were in late July, when we drove to Milwaukee, where we did no birding but just loved the refreshingly cool weather and toured the bird room in the city museum. Reptiles, amphibians, mammals and insects were interesting (or more bothersome: 3 wasp stings, several ticks, and umpteen chigger-bites!) during the summer. I identified several snakes, lizards, rodents, and the evening bat - all new to me. Wasps are abundant in both numbers and species here.

Swallow migration was noticeable in late August. A flock of Eastern Kingbirds flew south September 16. On September 28 - a snappy, clear day with brisk north wind - I went birding with zest, and lucky man was I! Counted some 228 broadwinged hawks gliding high overhead, 129 in one bunch. That was migration day for several species. October 12 was a day like September 28. I heard calls overhead, and there were 96 adult and juvenile snow geese. Just behind them in another "V" came 26 more, and 11 more after that. My last date for swallows was October 2 and last for chimney swifts was October 18. During the fall, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, golden-crowned kinglets, slate-colored juncos, white-throated and song sparrows, towhees, and icterids arrived for the winter tourist season and many other species left or arrived. November 6 was a chilly, gloomy day with a low overcast and strong north wind. At least 800 to 1,000 ducks swept southward high overhead; Mallards, I believe. A loner dropped toward Lake Alazan, disappearing below the pine tops. A minute later a shotgun blast was very significant.

December 28 four of us spent the morning seeking birds in a heavy mist. Birds were active, however, and by noon the mist cleared. Our Christmas Count was 59 species plus 2 red-shouldered hawk and purple finch seen during count period but not that day. One roadrunner and two orange-crowned warblers were included in this count. I saw a species new to me that day - one short-billed marsh wren - making three new species in 1958.

---Cal Royall

Jan. 11, 1959

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BY - LAWS OF
THE COLORADO BIRD CLUB

Article I
Name

The name of this organization shall be "The Colorado Bird Club".

Article II
Objects, Places of Operation and Place of Business

1. The object of this club shall be (a) To promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats; (b) To support local and national movements for their protection.
2. The principal operations of this club shall be carried on in the counties of the state of Colorado.

Article III
Membership, Dues

1. Persons known to be in sympathy with the aims and purposes of this club are eligible to membership upon payment of the annual dues.
2. Honorary life membership may be voted by the members at any regular meeting of the club. Provided, however, that nominations for such memberships shall be made by and through the board of directors.
3. Dues shall be two dollars* per year, and shall be payable in September of each year. *Dues for second and succeeding members of family receiving only one copy of bulletin, \$0.50 per year; subscribing (out-of-town) members, \$1.00; junior members, under 18 years of age, \$0.50.

Article IV
Meetings, Time and Place

1. Regular meetings of the club shall be held monthly in the Colorado Museum of Natural History, except during the months of June, July and August. The date of such meetings shall be determined by the president after consulting the wishes of the membership at any regular meeting. Early each year the president shall appoint a committee of at least five members to draft a schedule of special meetings, or field trips, for any part of the year, suitable to a majority of the members.
2. The rules contained in "Roberts Rules of Order" shall govern this club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they do not conflict with these by-laws.

Article V
Officers and Directors, Duties of

1. There shall be five officers of this club, a president, a vice-president, a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, and a treasurer.
2. The board of directors shall consist of ten members, five of whom shall be the officers of the club, and four of whom shall be elected, two of the four to be elected each year for a term of two years. The retiring president shall be the tenth member and shall serve until his successor as president shall retire from that office. The board shall have power to fill any vacancy that occurs within its ranks. The president of the club shall be president of the board, but shall have no vote except in case of a tie.

BY-LAWS (Continued)

3. The duties of these officers shall be those common to such officers. The treasurer shall sign all membership cards and shall pay all bills upon the signed approval of the president.

Article VI
Elections

Election of officers and directors shall be held at the regular meeting in May. These officers and directors shall assume office in the following September and shall serve for one year, except for the two directors who are elected to serve for two years. A majority of the members present and voting at said meeting shall determine the election.

Article VII
Amendments

These by-laws may be amended, repealed, or modified by a two-thirds majority vote of the board of directors, but no change shall become effective until thirty days after its adoption.

These by-laws were adopted by the Board of Directors at a meeting held at the home of the president, February 21, 1943.

By-laws revised by committee:

George Roberts
Mary K. Edmiston
Dexter Brown

and approved by

THE COLORADO BIRD CLUB
March 23, 1943

COLORADO BIRD CLUB

CHRISTMAS COUNTS--- As scheduled in the latest Colorado Bird Notes, our two Christmas Counts will be made on Saturdays, December 20 in Jefferson County, just southwest of Denver and Dec. 23 in the high country above Idaho Springs. All interested members and others are urged to participate in the Counts and to call the leader of the section of their choice, or call John Chapin (SK6-2200) or Donald Thatcher (GL5-7479) for assignment to a section for either Count. Following are the sections and proposed leaders for the Jefferson County Count:

1. Red Rocks Park, Morrison, up Bear Creek. Donald Thatcher
2. Box and Willow Springs Ranches, Turkey creek from foothills to junction with Bear Creek, Bear Creek up to Morrison. Ann Condit (GE3-0492)
3. Bear Creek valley from Turkey Creek east to Bear Creek Road, Bear Creek Road north to Jewell Ave., ponds and marshes. Sadie Morrison (MA3-0840)
4. Indian Hills, Tiny Town, Little Turkey Creek, Federal Correction Institute ponds, Bear Cr. east from Bear Creek Rd. to Sheridan Blvd. John Chapin
5. Kon Caryl Ranch and Marston, Bowles, Tule & Patrick Lakes. John Flavin (SK6-1744)
6. Deer Creek from Tiny Town to Littleton - Waterton Road. Robert Glover (PE3-8757)
7. Littleton and nearby South Platte River. Parnell & Jean White (WE6-0606)
8. S. Platte River near Wolhurst and junctions with Deer & Plum Creeks, and up Plum Creek. Thompson Marsh (FR7-5380)
9. South Platte River above and below Waterton. Ferd Kleinschnitz (SP7-3529)

Following the December 20 Count, all participants and any others who are interested are invited to the Thatchers', 2916 Perry Street, Denver, for the count summary and a snack.

All those making Counts elsewhere in Colorado are invited to submit copies to us for publication in COLORADO BIRD NOTES. Counts of reasonable duration, but of less than the 8 hours required by Audubon Field Notes, are welcome.

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The SPECIAL MEETING to consider action on CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, scheduled for December 5, was necessarily called off because of the weather. (Only three made it.) It is now planned to have this meeting on Friday, January 16, 1959, 8 PM, in the Bird Room at the Museum. Please read the committee report in your November CBN and come! We can use your ideas, if not your time.

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We have notification that the movie, THE WHOOPING CRANE, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which failed to arrive for the November meeting, will be here for the January 27 regular meeting.

December 15, 1958